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# THE PIONEER WILLIAMS FAMILIES OF SMITH TOWNSHIP, POSEY COUNTY, INDIANA

AND THEIR ALLEN, CATER, DAVIS, HARMON,  
JOHNSON/JOHNSTON, JOURNEY, LOWE, MARTIN,  
PREWITT/PRUITT & ROOK CONNECTIONS

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Written and Researched by *Steve Malone*



*"If you are going to be a pioneer...  
you cannot be faint of heart."*

**-WILLIAM CAMPBELL**



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The family history of Simon Williams: his life, his children and grandchildren,  
and the families that his children married into.

Originally published Thanksgiving 2014.  
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This book is paginated for printing in duplex mode.  
The first two pages are the front and back of *the front cover*.  
All chapters begin on odd numbered pages.

Compiled, researched, analyzed and written  
(or, in other words – sliced, diced and puréed)  
by

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Addenda are contained in a separate volume: *Volume2*.

The reader has the following individuals to thank for helping the author weed out factual,  
spelling and grammatical errors, though no doubt some have remained to vex us all:

**Ralph G. Martin, Robert D. Niehaus and Mary Alea Sando**

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## **Public Domain**

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This book is hereby placed in the public domain. It is hoped that free and easy access to  
this research will enable my distant relatives to connect to a very rich past that will  
inspire our future generations to achieve their full potential.

“One aspect of serendipity to bear in mind is that you have to be looking for something in order to find something else.”

• **LAWRENCE BLOCK**



## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my wife and best friend, **Mary Alea Sando**. Few men are lucky enough to have a loving wife that tolerates the long hours of research, writing and re-writing that a book such as this requires.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Any family history worth the time to read by necessity involves the assistance of many, many people. Chief among these are our thoughtful ancestors, who left their tombstones and public records, and some of whom subscribed to have their biographies, commonly termed “mugbook bios,” included in local history books. It is they who have scattered virtual bread crumbs for us to find, pointing out the path by which we can find our common ancestors.

A good deal of the foundation upon which much of this research is based comes from the work of **Carrol Otto Cox** and **Gloria Hope (Montgomery) Cox**, and their associates and collaborators. Their unpublished works in the *Cox Collection* at the Willard Library in Evansville have been invaluable in overcoming many apparent roadblocks and has expanded the scope of this research considerably. Their published works are equally valuable.

In addition, there are many other family historians that have researched various branches of Simon’s descendants who helped to facilitate learning about various individuals, many of whom are acknowledged in *Volume 2, Addendum 6*.

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah has provided access to a vast amount of information that originated in jurisdictions throughout the Midwest and the Eastern Seaboard. It facilitated a depth of research that otherwise would have taken far longer and been far more costly to compile. Quite literally, weeks of research were performed there during the creation of this book

Special thanks are due to **Dan Elliott**, his associates and predecessors. He and others like him have tirelessly worked to find, catalog and/or restore graveyards throughout southwestern Indiana, providing some of the best available facts regarding many of the earliest Indiana pioneers and their families. The hazards of such work include the occasional encounter with wild animals and poisonous snakes, and having to routinely work around poison ivy and plenty of thorny weeds and briars. He and people like him deserve our most sincere gratitude.

Thanks are also due the following people:

- **Adrian Jeffers**, for his excellent book *Land Grants of Warren/Allen County, Kentucky*. His work vastly simplified the task of tracking the location of many metes-and-bounds-described properties in Allen County, Kentucky, adding considerably to what is known of the individuals discussed in this book who, for a time, had lived in that county.

- **Beth Wilson**, for sharing her prior research, which included many hours abstracting dozens of early Williams deeds, wills and probate orders, and accumulating the work of several other researchers. Her early collaboration in this project got things off to a quick start, making it easier to enlist others in this effort.
- **Bonnie Johnson** of the Princeton Library in Princeton, Indiana for her help in locating court files and deeds related to individuals covered in this book.
- **Brian Spangle** of Knox County Public Library's McGrady-Brockman House for his help in locating records of interest, generally spanning from 1807 to 1813.
- **Celia Norman**, for giving me access to the family cemetery on Simon Williams' former farm and for loaning me her shovel, and to both her and **Domino** (her dog) for their hospitality.
- **Connie Conrad**, for her help in organizing and retrieving files from the Posey County courthouse, and for referring other researchers to this effort.
- **Deanna Dodds**, for providing a copy of the first history of Simon Williams' family that I found as part of this research.
- **Elaine Mueller**, for her help and feedback regarding John Clark Williams and Ritter Johnson.
- **Evelyn Dismore**, for her research assistance at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky and for sharing her prior research of the Martin and Rook families.
- **Jim Williams**, who is *potentially* a descendant of John Clark Williams, for purchasing a yDNA test for comparison against a similar test taken by a descendant of Bennet Williams. The lines did not match, which is consistent with John Clark Williams not being the son of Simon Williams.
- **Jonathan Jeffrey** and **Lynn Niedermeier** of the Manuscripts & Folklife Archives at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky for their help in retrieving early Warren County, Kentucky marriage records and for reviewing the records of Arlis O. Harmon to determine if they contained any information of possible interest.
- **Kandie Adkinson** of the Kentucky Secretary of State's Land Office Division, for her help in acquiring early grants, surveys and patents for property located in the vicinity of the boundary between present-day Warren County and Allen County.
- **Lisa McMillin**, interlibrary loan coordinator for Boise Public Library (and her staff) for her assistance in obtaining the loan of several titles cited in this research.
- **Marcia Caudell** of the Indiana State Library for her help in ascertaining various facts from around the time of Indiana statehood.
- **Michael Vetman** at the Indiana State Archives for his help in retrieving various early Posey County probate files and other documents.
- **Neal L. Martin** and **Ralph Gilbert Martin** for purchasing yDNA tests in an attempt to clarify their Martin ancestry.
- **The Newberry Library** in Chicago, for their invaluable online *Atlas of Historical County Boundaries*. This resource helped to create order out of chaos and saved countless hours of research.

- **Pam Farlow**, for her invaluable role as a muse in my early research of the Martins of Montgomery, Smith and Armstrong Townships. Her feedback caused me to keep digging deeper on that subject and is no doubt the main reason for my sense of satisfaction resulting from that research.
- **Patricia Banks** for her help in understanding the relationships between many Reavis families of Warren County, Kentucky.
- **Elder Robert Webb** of The Primitive Baptist Library of Carthage Illinois, for his help in learning more about the early Baptists of Southwestern Indiana, and for helping me to use “the correct scriptural title” for most of the early ministers or preachers discussed in this book.
- **Susan Grabek**, for sharing her research of the Lindsey families of Newberry County, South Carolina, for providing information about early Davis families of Newberry County and for providing copies of early South Carolina grant surveys, including that of James Cato.
- **Theresa Koenigsnecht** of the Indiana Historical Society for her help in locating photocopies of early voter lists of Knox County, Indiana Territory.
- **The Willard Library staff and/or volunteers**, specifically **Lyn Martin, Erika Johnson, Stan Schmitt** and **Shannon Grayson** for their assistance in responding to research questions. Willard Library provides an incredible service of providing FREE simple research assistance that greatly facilitated parts of the research for this book.

## RESEARCH CONTRIBUTORS

The following people contributed information that has been incorporated into this book: *Patricia Banks, Susan Branam, Larry Stuart Cox, Evelyn Dismore, Deanna Dodds, Dan Elliott, Pam Farlow, Wanda Gooding, Susan Grabek, Michelle Hartley, Jean Vaughn Hendricks, Samantha Ingolia, Larry Liles, Nancy Magnuson, Neal L. Martin, Ralph Martin, Eugene Paul Montgomery, Elaine Mueller, Margie Niehaus, Robert Dean Niehaus, Susan Rainieri, George Donald Russell, Karen and Chuck Short, Tina Swyer, Linda Thaxton, Elder Robert Webb, Helen Wells, Jim Williams, Beth Wilson and Sheila Wiseman.*

Hopefully I haven’t forgotten anyone. If I did, the oversight was definitely unintentional, so please accept my sincerest apologies for my blunder(s).

## FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

The following individuals provided direct financial support for the research behind this book. Their generosity has made it possible to dig a deeper and broader foundation for the conclusions reached herein: *Evelyn Dismore, Jean Vaughn Hendricks, Mary Ellen Malone, Ralph Martin, Jon & Sharon Montgomery, Bob & Margie Niehaus, Denise Wedgwood and Beth Wilson.*

Thanks also to the many people that have provided indirect financial support by sharing documents and information acquired during their own family research.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I am a fourth great grandson of **Simon Williams** and his wife **Anna** via their son, **Elder Lewis Williams** and his wife, **Elender Cater** (daughter of **James Cater**, who had served during the Revolutionary War in South Carolina). Their daughter, **Permelia Williams**, married my second great grandfather, **Absalom Malone**. They gave birth to my great grandfather, **William Thomas Malone**, who married **Minnie Russell**. She died around the time of the birth of my grandfather, **Paul Edward Malone**. He married **Eva Pearl Wiggins**, who gave birth to **Paul Elmar Malone**, my father. He married **Mary Ellen Adams**, who gave birth to me, the last of four children. My wife is **Mary Alea Sando** and we have no children.

This is the second family history/genealogy that I've written. The first was self published in late 2012 and is entitled *The First Two Malone Families to Settle in Gibson County, Indiana Territory*. It was published in two volumes, with the second volume containing the appendices. I was also the principal author of the Ada County Historic Preservation Council's 2006 *Preservation Plan for Cultural and Historic Resources*. My first book was about bicycle-themed postage stamps, which was published in 1995 and updated in 1996, entitled *Illustrated Bikes on Stamps*. These works are all in the public domain and can be downloaded for free from the internet.



*The author (right) with travel companion Travis Hodgdon in Yellowstone National Park on 25 Jun 1985.*

## PREFACE

Since this book deals mainly with people who were born, and several who died, prior to the 1850 Census, there will no doubt be some factual errors due to a lack of available public records. It is hoped that any errors are minor and that it is made clear when information is based upon fact, when it is deduced from what facts are available and when a speculation is being made. While every attempt has been made to avoid errors by being as thorough as possible in this research, the results presented herein are simply the best that could be done in researching an era where available public records are sometimes very scant and where there is not always a clear answer to every question.

We have Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey to thank for her 37 page booklet, *Looking Backward Ten Generations: With Connected Families*, which provides important foundational information about Simon Williams' children. Without her family history this effort would otherwise have been a bit off the mark (though not by a tremendous amount, as there are available public records to link Simon to most of his children). Her work has also been somewhat of a curse, as many of her conclusions for generations six through ten for more than one of her family lines are based upon incorrect assumptions and inadequate research, though to her credit, the Daughters of the American Revolution had erroneously sanctified one of these lines. Given the tools that she had at hand when the book was written, she did an admirable job. But the book's many clerical errors leave us to wonder about the true intention of typographical errors, and to wonder if there are any errors of omission in some parts of the book. Speculation is sometimes used to guess at possible answers to such questions, but without access to her source of the identities of Simon's children, the true facts may never be known.

In addition to finding facts to prove unsourced information provided by Mrs. Ramsey, this book provides several features not found in earlier family histories:

1. A detailed assessment of the family cemetery east of Cynthiana, its chain of ownership while in family hands, and a comparison of three different surveys of the gravestones found at the site at various times,
2. A detailed assessment of the neighborhood in present-day Allen County, Kentucky where Simon Williams and many of his Indiana neighbors had lived before migrating to Indiana,
3. A detailed account of Elder James Martin and his family from 1805 to the mid-1820s, which dispels the notion that he was either Colonel James Martin of Edgefield County, South Carolina, or the Colonel's son,
4. And finally, significant deed and probate research is documented that more fully and accurately identifies the very large number of Simon Williams' grandchildren.

While Mrs. Ramsey's work was lineal (focusing almost exclusively on her direct ancestors), mine is more radial, or perhaps concentric (focusing on the entire family of each direct ancestor, the families that they married into and the public records that help to prove their web of relationships). So here is a considerably expanded and some might say overly detailed extension of a portion of her work – at least that part covering her generations four and five.

“To be ignorant of what occurred  
before you were born  
is to remain always a child.  
For what is the worth of human life,  
unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors  
by the records of history?”

• **MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO**

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# CHAPTER 1:

## BACKGROUND

The earliest settlers of Indiana Territory were among the vanguard of the Great Western Migration, which for decades after the close of the Revolutionary War had rapidly pushed our nation's boundary westward. Most such settlers were of humble origins and pursued the modest vision of owning enough land to meet their family's basic needs, with the hope that they might also provide a significant legacy for their descendants. They yearned to have control of their own destiny, having experienced an era when the tides of immigration and natural population increase often resulted in rapidly rising rents and other hardships. Many of these migrating families also sought to live where slavery would be banned, having personally experienced how the treatment of a class of people as property had devalued the worth of their own labor. Perhaps most importantly, they were all eager and enthusiastic participants in the creation of an experimental new form of government, which had been described forty years earlier in the Declaration of Independence as one that was "instituted among Men, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed."

When they arrived in the heavily forested Indiana wilderness, most had few possessions. The earliest settlers nearly all came on foot or on horseback, with perhaps a small cart to carry their most important possessions, as it took time for roads to be established that were wide enough to accommodate wagon traffic. Thus most had no immediate shelter. Once they found an unclaimed piece of land to meet their needs, beside shelter, there were many other urgent tasks to attend to: establishing access to a reliable source of water, clearing land, defending livestock from predators and establishing sources of food to assure their survival through the next winter. It was a time when the local dangers took many forms: there were wild predatory animals, poisonous snakes and unknown noxious plants, menacing hunter-gather natives (most of whom found the concept of land ownership incomprehensible) and the sometimes violent, and often unpredictable, weather.

## PURPOSE

This book seeks to chronicle the lives of several early families as they relate to the family of one early pioneer: Simon Williams, who had moved from Allen County, Kentucky to Indiana Territory a few years before Indiana had achieved statehood.

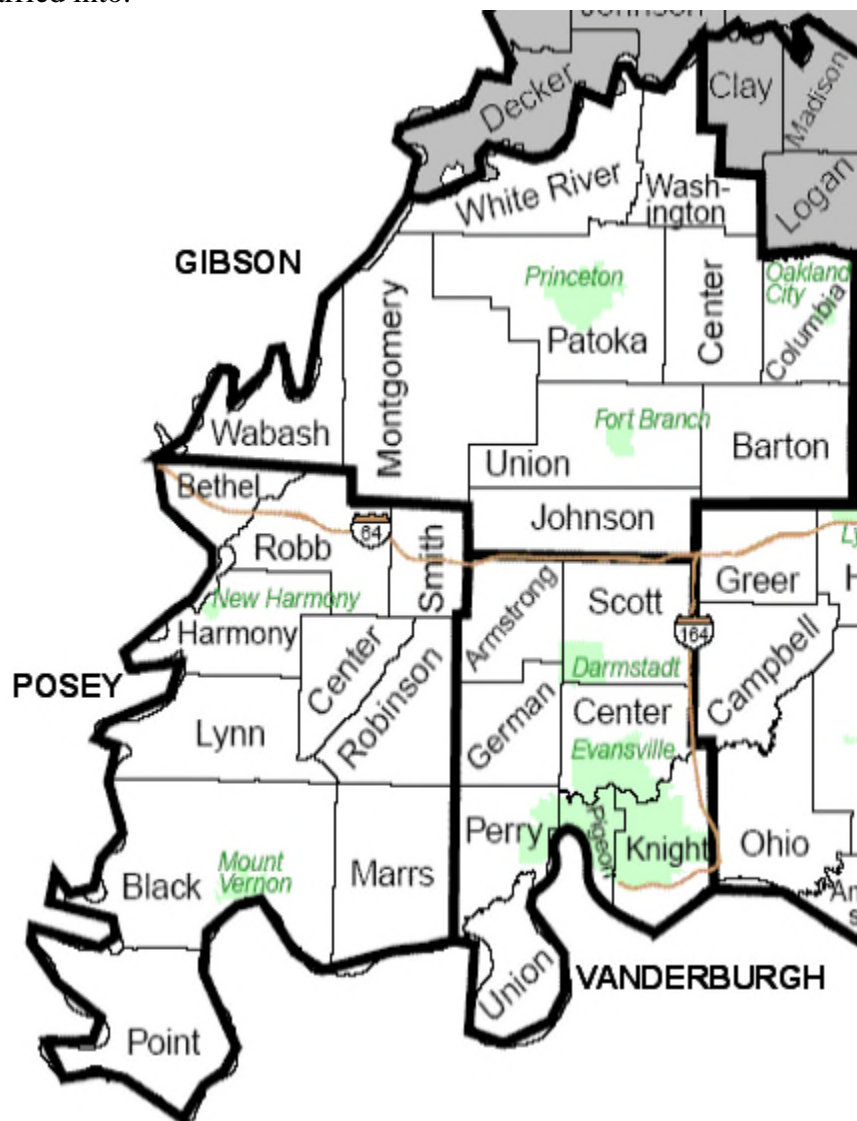
There are a number of early Williams families that had settled in Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana prior to the first surviving Federal Census there in 1820.<sup>1</sup> Many were the children of Simon Williams, but there were at least two other Williams families that were also there at that time, and one is very commonly mistakenly to have been headed by a son of Simon's.<sup>2</sup> While there have been several earlier attempts to enumerate

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<sup>1</sup> There was an 1810 Federal Census compiled for Indiana, but it was destroyed in a fire at Washington, D. C. during the War of 1812.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to *Volume 2, Addendum 5* for an overview of several early Williams families in the area surrounding Cynthiana, Indiana.

Simon's many children, most disagree in at least a few details. So it was clear that there was a need to determine what proof could be found of the identities of his children, in order to turn mere mythology into a solid family history. Attempting to do so has not been easy: no will or probate for Simon Williams is known to exist, and Simon's 160 acre patent was deeded away prior to his death (so there are no clues left by an estate deed that had been evenly divided amongst his many heirs). Likewise, no bible record is known to exist, nor is there any clear source of family lore. Thus it is the main purpose of this book to determine what available evidence exists that may prove that any of the early Smith Township Williams were his children, and to piece such clues together to see how certain we are of such relationships. A second purpose is to uncover any red herrings (clues that are, intentionally or not, misleading), which add unneeded and unwanted turbidity to the examination of Simon Williams, his and the families that his children married into.



*Map of Southwestern Indiana Townships.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>3</sup> Map derived from a Wikipedia map created by Rhatsa26X.

There were intermarriages between the Williams families and those of the Allen, Cater, Harmon, Johnson, Journey, Lowe, Martin, and Pruitt families. So a secondary purpose is to learn, where possible, a bit about these families; in particular, where they were living around the period of the Revolutionary War, and when and how they migrated to Indiana Territory.

Smith Township (which is located in the northeastern corner of Posey County, as shown on the map on the previous page) was named for George Rudolphus Smith, who made a land entry in the area at the same time as had Simon Williams and his two sons, George and Bennet.<sup>4</sup> At the time that they arrived there, the area was part of Wabash Township, Knox County, Indiana Territory. Shortly after their arrival, a series of jurisdictional changes were begun that spanned several years, resulting in friends and family living in five or more townships and three different counties, though nobody was more than a few miles from some other family member. Simon's farm ended up in Smith Township, which is rather small as townships go (a bit more than twenty square miles). Many of his children lived by him on abutting properties, but others ended up outside of Smith Township, including the jurisdictions of:

- Montgomery Township, Gibson County, which abuts on the north.
- Johnson Township, Gibson County, which abuts the northern half of Smith Township to the east.
- Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, which abuts the southern half of Smith Township to the east.
- Harmony Township, Posey County, which is just beyond the boundary of Robb Township, which abuts to the west.

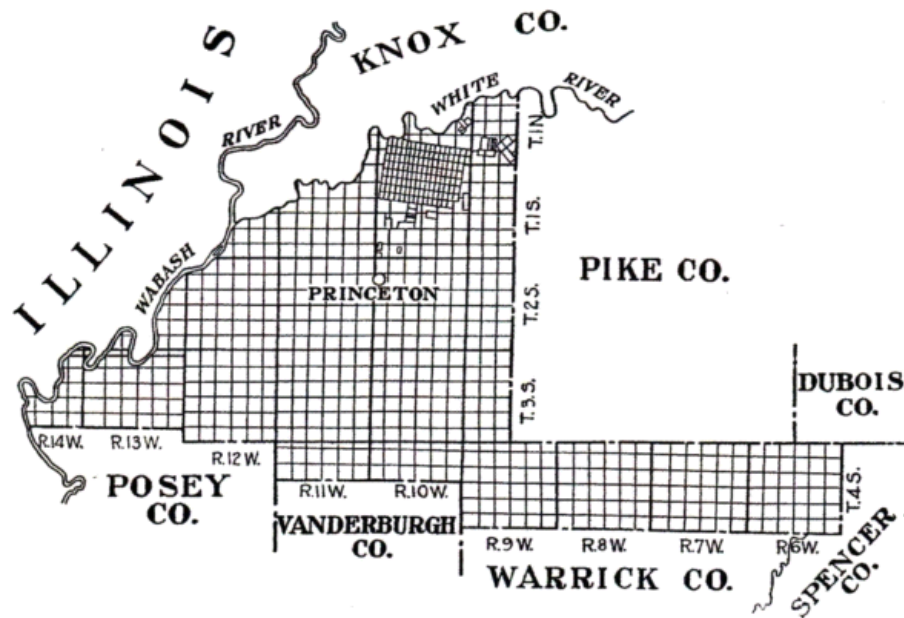
The following section of this book will seek to describe how and when these various jurisdictional changes took place, as knowing that helps to know where to seek public records that can contribute to a better understanding of these hardy pioneers.

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<sup>4</sup> *History of Posey County, Indiana* by John C. Leffel (1913), page 83.

## SHIFTING BOUNDARIES

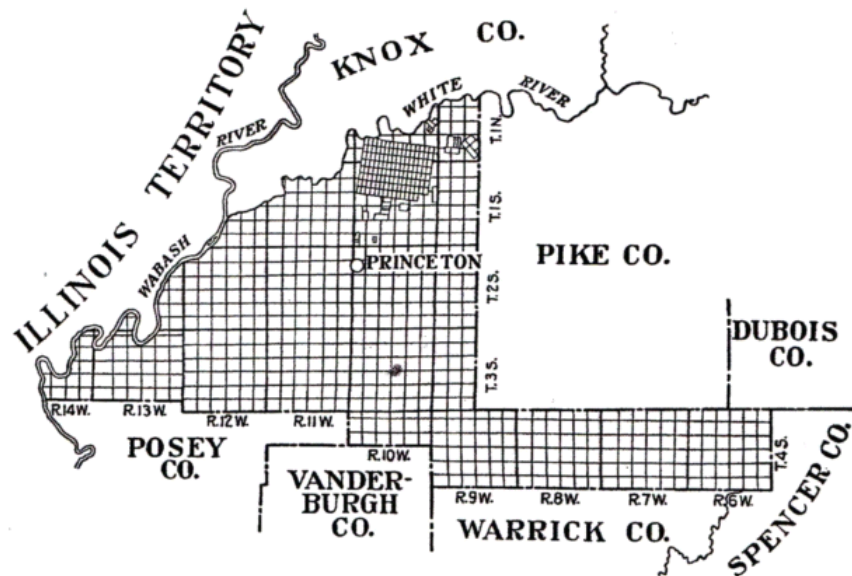
Since it affects where evidence of our ancestors can be found, it is important to point out that the boundaries between Gibson, Posey, Warrick and Vanderburgh counties changed five times prior to 1 Feb 1822 (as shown in the map below), at which time the boundaries *within our area of interest* reached their current status, though the boundaries of Gibson County continued to evolve until 1852 (the grid lines of each map represent the sections, townships and ranges of the public land survey system within Gibson County).



GIBSON COUNTY VI

[Law: Dec. 31, 1821, effective Feb. 1, 1822]

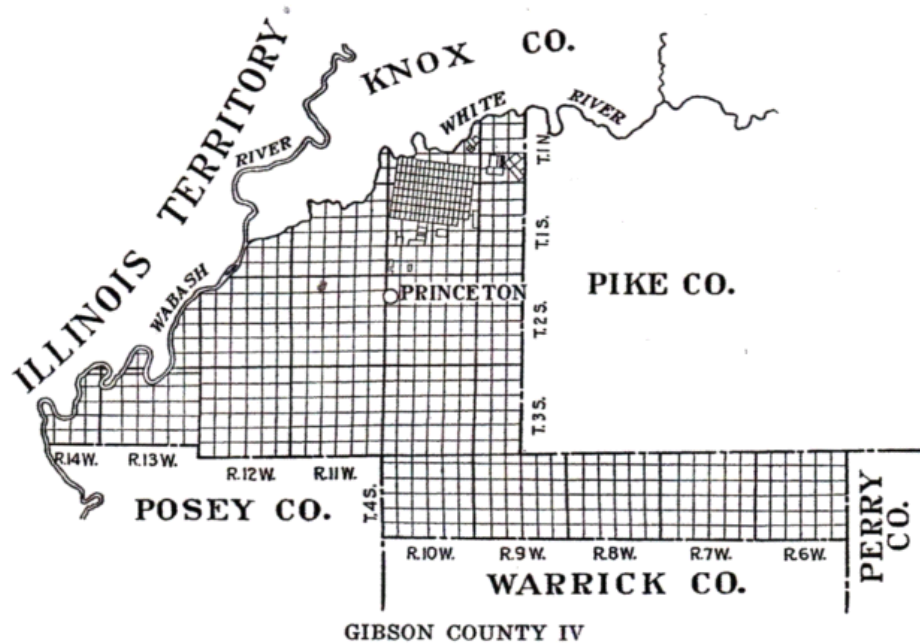
Pictured above is the boundary in 1822, whereas four years prior it had looked thus:



GIBSON COUNTY V

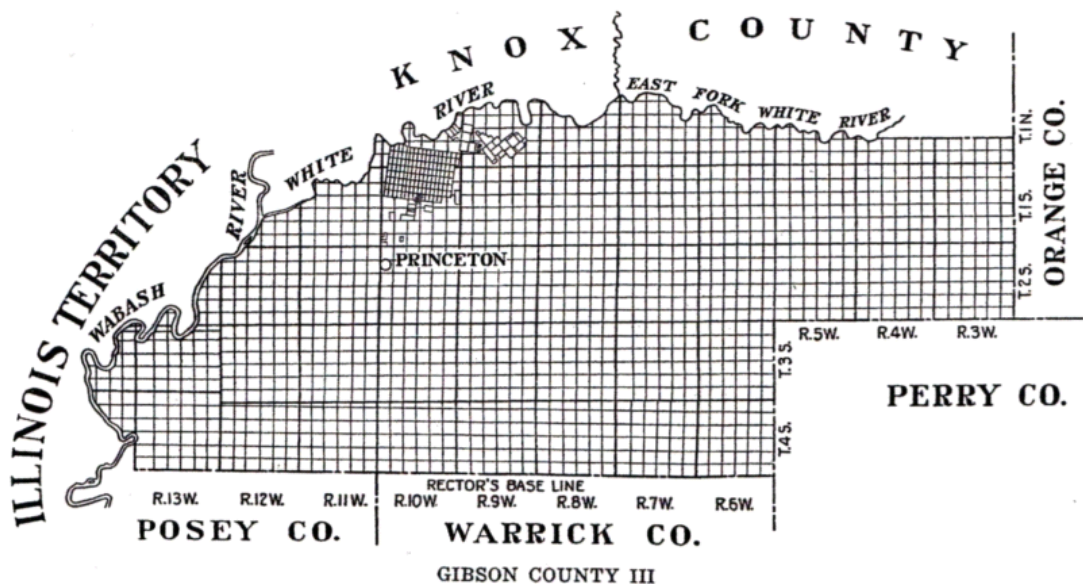
[Law: Jan. 7, 1818, effective Feb. 1, 1818]

And only one year earlier, there had been no Vanderburgh County:



[Laws: Dec. 21, 1816, effective Feb. 1, 1817; Jan. 1, 1817, effective Feb. 1, 1817]

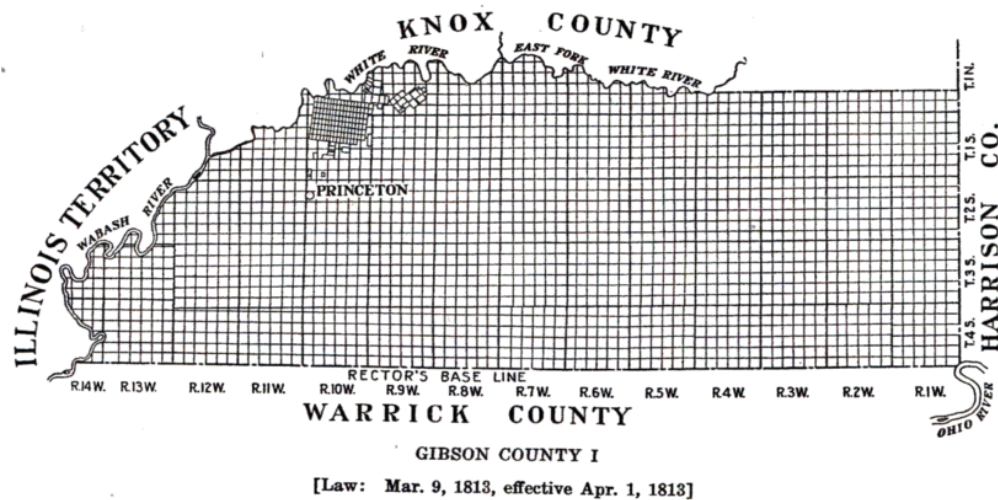
The state of Indiana came into existence a couple of months before the above boundary changes, on 11 Dec 1816. One year before that (when Posey County was created) all of Smith Township and the northern part of Armstrong Township had been part of Montgomery Township, Gibson County:



[Laws: Dec. 26, 1815, effective Feb. 1, 1816; Dec. 18, 1815, effective Mar. 1, 1816]



In 1813, Gibson County was carved out of Knox County; when first created, Gibson County stretched from the Wabash River all the way east to the Ohio River:



Prior to that time, Knox County had encompassed all of southwestern Indiana. And as noted earlier, our area of interest had been located entirely within Wabash Township, Knox County, Indiana Territory.

Indiana Territory had been created on 4 Jul 1800, with Vincennes (which had been founded by the French in 1732) as its capital.

(The preceding maps are from *Indiana boundaries, territory, state and county* by George Pence and Nellie Catherine Armstrong [1933]).

## RECORDS AVAILABILITY

In *Indiana Land Entries, Volume 2, Vincennes District, Part 1, 1807-1877* by Margaret R. Waters (1949) is a copy of a map created by Charles Nebeker Thompson for the 1932 year book of the Society of Indiana Pioneers. It shows four important dates for each county in Indiana: the date of first white settlement; the date organized as a county; the date the first court was convened; and the date of the first land entry. The dates for the counties relevant to this research are summarized in the following table:

**Table 1.01 - First dates of Organization, Settlement, Court Records and Land Entries in Southwestern Indiana**

County	Organized	1 <sup>st</sup> Settlers	1 <sup>st</sup> Court	1 <sup>st</sup> Land Entry
Knox	1740	1740	1740	1750
Gibson	1813	1802	1813	1807
Warrick	1813	1807	1813	1807
Posey	1814	1800	1813	1807
Vanderburgh	1818	1812	1818	1807

The dates for Knox County in the above table refer to the French colonial administration. The first records of the territorial court in Knox County would have been after 1800, and the first land entries outside of those areas that had been settled by French colonists took place in 1807.

The records in Gibson County are likely as complete as any county records to be found anywhere in the United States. In contrast, the probate records of Posey County were until recently found in what was at one time a dirty basement area nicknamed “The Dungeon,” where in the recent past these files were pulled apart to such an extent that the box and file system originally used to organize the records had to be tossed out. An effort is currently underway to reassemble and alphabetize these records. Early (approximately pre-1850) Vanderburgh records don’t appear as complete as those of Gibson County. While Warrick County had jurisdiction over part of what is currently Smith Township, Posey County from 1813 to 1816, and part of Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County from 1813 to 1 Feb 1818, the jurisdiction line was located south of where our families of interest had lived, so there is only the smallest of possibilities that records of interest exist in Warrick County.

## 1820 Census

A significant obstacle to researching this family is that 1820 Census records for Posey County have not been found for Simon Williams, or for his sons John Williams, Bennet Williams and William Williams.

## IMPORTANT DATES

There are a number of important dates that help to make sense our ancestor's migration to Indiana Territory:

- The first was the end of the Revolutionary War, which formally ended in 1783, though the British government had voted to end the war in April 1782. For their service during the war, soldiers who served in Virginia and the Carolinas received land grants west of the Appalachian Mountains based upon their rank and length of service. This created the main enticement for the Great Western Migration, and the earliest settlers in the west are heavily represented by people who moved from those regions.
- Next was 1795, which marked the end of the Northwest Indian War and the year that Daniel Boone and his men completed the widening of the Wilderness Road to accommodate wagon traffic through the Cumberland Gap: this opened the floodgates of immigration to the west. And the flow steadily increased as the western frontier was gradually expanded by the ongoing acquisition of lands from Native American tribes.
- 1800 saw the formation of Indiana Territory, formally establishing a government for the region west of Ohio Territory and north of the Ohio River.
- 1804 was significant, as the Native Americans ceded by treaty their claim to southwestern Indiana, enticing a small number of settlers to move to Indiana Territory, though at the time there was no means of gaining ownership of the land from the Federal Government.
- 27 Apr 1807 is perhaps the most important date, as on that day the land office in Vincennes opened for business and it became possible to own land in Indiana Territory. The first purchases were made there on 20 May 1807.
- General William Henry Harrison's victory at the Battle of the Thames on 5 Oct 1813 was followed soon after by an armistice with the Native Americans that greatly diminished the threat of significant conflict with settlers, encouraging an increase in settlement that would grow exponentially over the next few years.
- On 11 Dec 1816 Indiana was granted statehood. This was also about the time that steamboats began appearing on the major waterways of the west, multiplying profusely over the next decade: firewood for fuel was plentiful in the dense forests lining the major waterways and the west had countless resources to be exploited that would make rich men of a large throng of pioneering entrepreneurs. The steamboats also facilitated migration down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh, as well as up the Mississippi River from New Orleans, meaning that immigrants now flooded in from virtually every direction.



## CHAPTER 2:

### SIMON WILLIAMS

The point of departure for investigating the Williams families of Smith Township began with a message board thread started in 2003 by Randi Richardson in regard to Simon and Rowland Williams, who both appeared side by side on an 1805 tax list for Warren County, Kentucky.<sup>5</sup> She later added that Warren County records show that Simon had witnessed a will there in 1804 (the will of Thomas Blasingame, dated 4 Dec 1804) and he had appeared on tax records from 1805 through 1812.

Adding to this, Simon first appears in Indiana as a voter on a list for the election of the Gibson County Clerk on 27 Mar 1813 (along with Patrick Calvert and Arthur Johnson). And on 28 Mar 1814 he patented 160 acres in the NW quarter of Section 15, T4S, R12W in Posey County, Indiana.

The thread continued on, with many descendants contributing their own “facts.” Reviewing that information revealed that while some of it may have been true, little of it was actually factual. That, and much of what is known of Simon Williams, is simply a collection of factoids: unsourced information, assumption or speculation that is repeated so often that it becomes accepted as fact. In order for these factoids to become fact, we need to find primary sources of information that confirm them. That may not be possible in many instances, as many of the people we will be researching died prior to the 1850 Census, when we are first able to find specific details about age, place of birth and names for individuals other than the head of household. Prior to that, the Census only provided the name and approximate age range of the head of household, plus the gender and age range for others in the household. So, to some degree it may become necessary to rely upon some factoids, particularly those that can be found to have likely originated closest to a primary source of information.

While there have been previous attempts at identifying Simon Williams’ children, there is a lack of concordance amongst researchers for a few of his children. While it is possible that one is right and the others wrong, most likely there are elements of truth in all of them. After all, each author was likely more assured of his direct line of descent from Simon Williams than he was for the dozen or more of Simon’s other children. Part of what is hoped to be achieved in this book is to find and reconcile as many different accounts of Simon’s family as possible, and attempt to separate fact from factoid where possible. In the end we’ll know that Simon’s relationship to some of his children has a solid factual basis, whereas others we can be less certain of. We will also learn of at least one individual – John Clark Williams – who many believe to have been Simon’s son: it turns out that he wasn’t.

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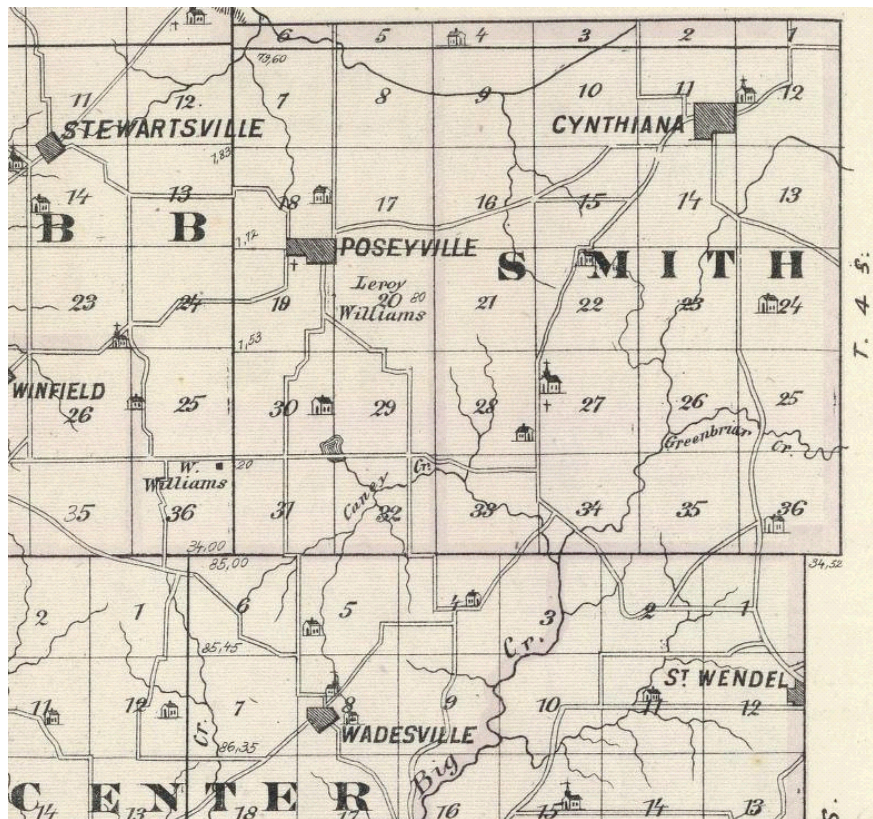
<sup>5</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1805, List 1*, page 19, FHL microfilm #8255.

## FACTS OR FACTOIDS?

Since we are attempting to determine the names of Simon's children, it's natural that we should start by reviewing the facts, factoids and lore related to him. In *The Genealogy Newspaper Columns of Robert E. Turman* by Tri-State Genealogical Society (1987), on pages 251-252 is the following information regarding Simon Williams (information about his children has been edited out, since we'll examine each of them in detail in later sections):

*"Since interested descendants of the **Williams** family are still currently working on their own history, this writer will not attempt here to enumerate much of their data, at present. But it can be pointed out that **Simon Williams** of the 1814 [land] entry was born Oct 17, 1753, and that all of his 14 children were born before he came to Indiana. Family records used to give his birthplace as North Carolina, but in 1925 one of his descendants (**John Felix Pruitt**)<sup>6</sup> declared that Simon was born in Culpeper County, Virginia.*

*"**Simon and Polly Ann Williams** were members of the Big Creek Baptist Church at Cynthiana, Ind., where the last mention of him in the minutes was in April, 1831."*



Map showing the course of Big Creek (Map of Posey County by Baskin, Forester & Co. [1876]).

<sup>6</sup> Simon's great grandson. Virginia is more credible, as Census records show that Simon's oldest children were born in Virginia.

On page 320 of the same book he adds the following in regard to a son of Bennet Williams:

*“Simon actually was **Simon Williams III**, one of the sons of an early Posey County settler, **Bennett Williams**, and his wife, **Mary** or ‘**Polly**’ **Martin Williams**; and the father of **Bennett** was **Simon Williams II**.”*

Thus, according to John Felix Pruitt (who was born in 1835), Simon was born in Culpeper County, Virginia on 17 Oct 1753, and Turman states that he and his wife (whom he called Polly Ann, though in public records her name is given simply as Anna) had 14 children – all born before they arrived in Indiana Territory – and that his father was also named Simon. How much we can rely upon this last bit of information about his father’s name is questionable.<sup>7</sup>

While most of what Turman wrote is factual, some of it cannot be corroborated by public records. Indeed, efforts to find a Simon Williams who was the father of our Simon have failed, despite what many people believe to the contrary. See *Volume 2, Addendum 1*, which discusses the person whom many descendants believe to have been Simon’s father: the Simon Williams whose will was dated 22 Aug 1808 in Warren County, North Carolina. While that Simon had a son named Simon, his son died unmarried and left his estate to nieces and nephews. Thus Turman’s Simon II in actuality could very well have been Simon I, as there are no other known clues to the true identity of our Simon’s father.

If Culpeper County, Virginia is where Simon Williams was born, it is interesting to note that the county came into existence just four years before his birth, in 1749 (when it was taken from the northern two-thirds of Orange County). To the west was Augusta County, which at the time was a vast and mainly unknown territory. So it may be that Simon was born *near* Culpeper County, just over the ridge of the piedmont in what would later become Frederick County, or that his family moved to the west soon after he was born. Either scenario would help to explain why no record of him is found in Culpeper County, and why you’ll soon learn of a possible record in abutting Frederick County that is a reasonable match for what is known of Simon’s family.

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<sup>7</sup> It is worth noting that the circa Sep 1777 roster of Captain Benjamin Harrison’s Company of Volunteers from Fauquier County, Virginia (which then abutted Culpeper County) includes Private Simon Williams. There is no known means of ascertaining whether this was *our* Simon Williams, but the time period and geography are consistent with the accounts discussed here. (From <http://revwarapps/b118.pdf> [transcribed by C. Leon Harris]).

## FAMILY HISTORIES

A handful of family histories, written roughly between the mid-1930s to the late 1990s, have attempted to document the family of Simon Williams. The earliest such effort, easily being one or more full generations closer to the source than any of the others, will provide a place to begin our research of Simon's family. The following list of individuals comes from pages 34 and 35 of *Looking Backward Ten Generations: With Connected Families* by Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey (after 1934). She provides no details about the source for the information that follows, so commentary about the validity of her information is also provided in the table below:

**Table 2.01 – List of Simon's Children per Mrs. Ramsey**

<i>Mary Elizabeth, born March 5, 1780</i>	Nothing is known of this person, who is nearly always confused with the wife of William Harmon. <u>Since there are two Marys in this listing, it is thought this Mary may have died before the second Mary was born.</u>
<i>Phebe, born February 6, 1781</i>	The 1850 Census estimates her year of birth as 1784, while the 1860 Census states 1787.
<i>Bennet, born March 22, 1782</i>	This is Mrs. Ramsey's ancestral line. The date of birth matches that found on Bennet's headstone.
<i>Ellenor, born February 22, 1783</i>	The 1820, 1830 and 1840 Census records for her husband (Lewis Harmon) show a wife whose age is consistent with this date.
<i>George, born May 15, 1784</i>	The date of birth matches that found on his headstone.
<i>Sara, born February 25, 1786</i>	Her headstone states that she was born a year later, on 25 Feb 1787.
<i>Louis [sic], born May 15, 1789</i>	The 1850 and 1860 Census state 1787 and 1789, respectively. While his headstone is extant, it is broken and no dates are visible.
<i>Mary, born November 8, 1791</i>	This is a credible date of birth for the wife of William Harmon, and is consistent with <i>most</i> Census records.
<i>Winifred, born January 10, 1793</i>	Based upon the Census records of her husband (Sampson Johnson), this is a credible date of birth for her.
<i>William, born August 15, 1784</i>	1784 would seem to be a typo. 1794 or 1795 would be more consistent with Williams' age as reported in Census records.
<i>John, born March 8, 1796</i>	His birth date is consistent with the 1850 Census, which states 1795.
<i>Francis, born January 3, 1797</i>	No record of this person was found. You will see that others think that this was Enoch Williams, but Enoch died in 1843, at about age 49 (thus born around 1794).
<i>Anna, born November 8, 1798</i>	The birth date is consistent with her birth range in the only Census in which she was enumerated – 1820.
<i>Jemime [sic], born January 8, 1800</i>	The 1850 and 1860 Census records her year of birth as 1801 and 1806, respectively.



The detailed dates of birth, which upon cursory examination seem to corroborate well with known facts, would appear to have come from a single source: likely a family bible birth record page, since such precise information would not be available from early public records. It is fairly likely that this may have come from John F. Pruitt (1836-1924) who recorded information about the family of his ancestors, Moses and Phebe (Williams) Pruitt. Though he had died at least a decade before Mrs. Ramsey's booklet, the date of birth that he had recorded for Phebe matches Ramsey's information. It seems likely that he was the early family historian, given that he had attained a high level of intellectual ability and was one of the longest lived great grandchildren of Simon Williams.

You will later see that there are extant headstones for five of the above individuals, though two such stones are only fragments, and no dates of birth were found on them. Of the other three, except for the headstone for Sarah (Williams) Martin (which shows that she was born exactly one year later, in 1787), the dates match Mrs. Ramsey's information exactly.

The one glaring omission from the above list is Enoch Williams. But we'll see what other researchers have had to say about the composition of Simon's family before commenting further about him.

Mrs. Ramsey's work is somewhat troubling, as you will learn in various detailed analyses that are sprinkled throughout this book: parts of it are riddled with incorrect conclusions and there are plenty of niggling little errors, especially for such a tiny booklet. But it would seem that there has been some level of agreement with what she wrote, as most of the other family histories that were reviewed in researching this book (see *Volume 2, Addenda 6*) have not strayed far from her information. Still, there is some variation in how different individuals have fleshed out Mrs. Ramsey's list of names. These other efforts have caused considerable confusion, but most of that will be rectified as we learn more about Simon's family.

It is a handful of Mrs. Ramsey's errors, compounded by the failed efforts of others in correctly interpreting some basic facts, which are at the heart of most of the discordance among the family histories that follow. Initially, those errors, coupled with an error in the date of the wedding of one of Simon's daughter's, made it difficult to see that there was far more agreement between these family histories than initially appeared to be the case. So let's see what the work of others may have to add to our knowledge.

*Williams*, a brief, unsourced, typewritten family history acquired in 1959 by R. Kent Williams from his uncle, Leonard Skelton Williams, would be approximately the next oldest family history record found in this research. There is no indication of the name of the author, though it would probably have been someone alive in 1959, thus it likely would have been by a second great grandchild, or thereabouts. Leonard was also a descendant of Bennet Williams, so it should come as no surprise that the history more or less parrots Mrs. Ramsey's work, with the following exceptions:

- The first Mary is said to have married a man named Payne.
- ‘Louis’ Williams is listed as Davis Williams.
- The second Mary is said to have married a man named Greene.
- William Williams is given the same birth date as John Williams.
- The name of John’s wife is given as ‘Henson.’
- Francis is omitted and Enoch Williams is added, but no birth date is given.

The surnames of spouses are provided for all the others, and except as noted, are consistent with most other sources and the marriage records that we will review in Chapter 4.

The omission of Francis and addition of Enoch is significant, given that, like Mrs. Ramsey, this also comes from a descendant of Bennet Williams. That suggests that family members may have been aware that she had made a mistake in the book, and they were correcting it. At any rate, no other history lists Francis, and they all list Enoch.

Next up is a letter (found in the *Cox Collection* at Willard Library in Evansville) dated 30 Apr 1975 to a Mr. Williams, who was said to be a descendant of John Clark Williams. The letter is unsigned, but it includes the statement “my husband is a descendant of Simon Williams through a daughter Phoebe Williams Pruitt.” This description fits Carroll O. Cox, so the letter appears to be written by Gloria Cox. She gives the names, presumably in birth order, of Simon’s children as: “John, Elizabeth, Phoebe, Bennet, Eleanor, George Harrison, Sarah, Lewis, Mary, William, Winfred [sic], Enoch, Anna, Jemina [sic].”

So, this letter conflicts with Mrs. Ramsey’s account in the order of birth for John. The author had truncated Mary Elizabeth’s name to Elizabeth, presumably to eliminate the conflict with the second Mary. She adds that George’s middle name was Harrison, and as in the R. Kent Williams letter, there is an Enoch, but no Francis.

An anonymous, undated typescript entitled *The Simon Williams Family* is the next source to consider. Some level of fact finding went into this work, but specific references were not given. It bears some resemblance to work done by the Coxes, and was found in the genealogy files of the Poseyville Carnegie Library. It states that Simon’s children were: Elizabeth (wife of William Harmon), Phoebe, Bennet, Eleanor, George Harrison, Sarah, Lewis, Mary (wife of George S. Greene), Winefred [sic], William, John b. 1795 (husband of Heneritta, no less, though they had married in 1801!) and Enoch. There is likely a page or two missing, since Anna and Jemima are not mentioned. The use of Harrison as George’s middle name and the inclusion of John Clark Williams suggest this was likely also compiled by Gloria Cox. It was this history that I discovered first in researching these families, which likely amplified my bewilderment about why facts attributed to some family members (in particular, John, Eleanor, Mary/Elizabeth and Lewis) did not seem to make sense.

Barbara Jean Wimpelberg Kennedy contributed the most recent family history, a family tree database report that was published some time prior to her death on 29 Dec 2000. She

has the same suspects, opting for including John Clark Williams and skillfully amending his date of birth to “Bef. 1795.” It appears that she had documented ten of the fourteen names provided by Mrs. Ramsey, suggesting this was perhaps an interim draft. It offers no unique or new information.

So the challenge is to attempt to determine whether these others have correctly deduced the identities of Simon’s children and their spouses. The main obstacles to be overcome will be Mrs. Ramsey’s two Marys, the confusion about Francis and Enoch, and potentially two different John Williams vying for a single spot in Simon’s family. Factual errors in regard to William Harmon’s family, which originate from a number of sources, are another issue to contend with.

But before delving further into Simon’s children, let’s first learn as much as we can about *him*, and the trail of evidence that takes us from Virginia to North Carolina to Tennessee to Kentucky and, finally, Indiana.

## SOME SPECULATION: VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND TENNESSEE

The table below summarizes what public records tell us about when and where the following individuals are known to have been born. Despite some conflicting information, it suggests Turman's account that Simon Williams was born in Virginia may be factual, since there are records that two of Simon's older children were born there. It also suggests that he had moved to North Carolina after 1784 and before 1787. You will learn in the following section that the first record of him in Warren County, Kentucky was in late 1804. The table below suggests that he probably lived for a while in Tennessee after the family had moved west from North Carolina, probably moving there between 1790 and 1795.

**Table 2.02 – Year of Birth – Ramsey, 1850 Census and 1860 Census**

Name	Mrs. Ramsey*	1850 Census	1860 Census	Other
John Clark Williams	(about 1776)	n/a	n/a	From an Ancestry.com marriage database.
Mary Elizabeth Williams	1780	n/a	n/a	
Phebe Williams	1781	1784 VA	1787 VA	
Bennet Williams	1782	n/a	n/a	From tombstone.
Eleanor Williams	1783	n/a	n/a	
George Williams	1784	1784 VA <sup>8</sup>	n/a	From tombstone.
Sarah Williams	1786	1787 NC	n/a	1787 on tombstone.
Lewis Williams	1789	1787 NC	1789 NC	
Polly Williams	1791	n/a	n/a	
Winnie Williams	1793	1800 TN	1781 NC	
William Williams	(1794?)	n/a	n/a	1784 in Ramsey.
Enoch Williams	1794	n/a	n/a	From tombstone. SC, <sup>9</sup> TN <sup>10</sup>
John Williams	1796	1795 TN	n/a	
Francis (Robert?) Williams	1797	n/a	n/a	
Anna Williams	1798	n/a	n/a	
Jemima Williams	1800	1801 KY	1806 TN	
*Years of birth enclosed in parentheses are from a source other than Ramsey, as described under Other.				

*In Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the year 1790: Volume 10, Virginia* by Government Printing Office (1908) is a listing of various substitutes for the 1790 U.S. Census for Virginia (which is no longer extant, having been destroyed by fire in 1814 when the British invaded Washington, D. C.). In their place are incomplete state enumerations for 1782, 1783, 1784 and 1785, which only cover about half of the state. For 1782 there is a Simon Williams that is head of a family of five

<sup>8</sup> From Ancestry.com's *U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules Index, 1850-1880* (1999).

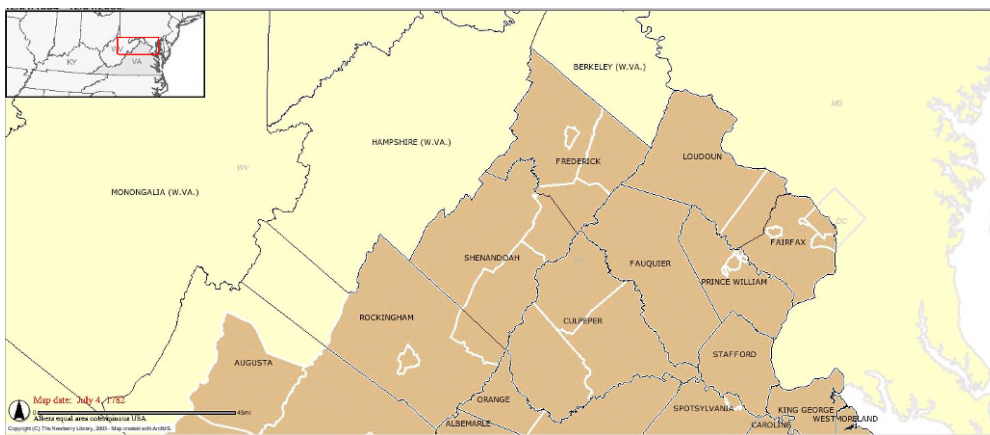
<sup>9</sup> *History of Posey County, Indiana* by John C. Leffel (1913), page 310.

<sup>10</sup> *History of Posey County, Indiana* by Goodspeed Publishing Company (1886), page 638.



living in Frederick County, Virginia, in the district enumerated by Elisha Williams (1782 is the only available enumeration for Frederick County). This household is a match for the known members of Simon's family in 1782: Simon and Polly, plus children Mary Elizabeth, Phebe and Bennet. But it is important to remember that records for several other Virginia counties are no longer extant, and this record *may not* describe our Simon Williams.

In 1782, Frederick County, Virginia at its southernmost tip abutted Culpeper County, Virginia (one of the two locations that Turman had speculated where Polly Ann was born). Separating the two counties is the Coastal Piedmont, and they are connected by road across a low pass near Front Royal, Virginia. This suggests that before and after their marriage they may have been living near to the intersection of the two counties.



*Map showing 1782 county boundaries for Frederick and Culpeper Counties, Virginia: white lines indicate modern county boundaries. Map courtesy of Newberry Library, Chicago.*

There is a 1787 Rowan County tax list that includes a Simon Williams. His household included one white male aged 21 to 60, three white males younger than 21 or older than 60, five white females and no slaves. Like the 1790 Census records, this is a reasonable match to what is known of Simon's family. Living three households away was Shadrick Williams; there were no males aged 21 to 60, and only one male aged under age 21 or over age 60. There were three white females, so it seems somewhat more likely that Shadrick may have been over age 60. There is no record of Shadrick living in Simon's neighborhood in the 1782 Census for Frederick County, Virginia.

In the 1790 Census for Rowan County, North Carolina, we don't find record of Shadrick Williams, but there is a Simon Williams (presumably our Simon) who was the head of a household of eleven, as follows:

- Three males under age sixteen: They are matches for Lewis, George, and Bennet.
- One male over sixteen years of age: Simon.
- Six females: They are matches for his wife, Polly, and daughters Mary Elizabeth, Phebe, Eleanor, Polly and Sally. There is one other unknown woman in the household (which could be anyone since we have no idea of the age – Simon's mother and/or mother-in-law, a sibling of either Simon or Polly, an orphaned relative, etc).

- One other free person. This person was seemingly either a Native American or a black, since any *white* person would have been counted in one of the preceding categories.

Simon Williams is not found mentioned in any early land entry, deed or will abstracts for the time period that he was suspected of having lived in Rowan County, so there are no additional known clues that might add to our understanding of his extended family.

At that time, there were at least 22 other Williams households living in Rowan County, which in 1790 covered the area of three modern counties: Davie, Davidson and Rowan. (The 1787 tax list discussed earlier was for a militia company located in what would later become Davie County.)

In 1800 his household is not listed in Census records for North Carolina. There is a Simeon Williams in a household of 4 living in Pitt County, and households headed by a Simon Williams in Edgecombe County (household of 1), Franklin County (household of 13 with 7 slaves), and Warren County (household of 26 with 21 slaves). There is also a Simeon Williams living in Abbeville County, South Carolina, but the household is not a realistic match for Simon's family.

The 1800 Census records for Kentucky and Tennessee, like those of Indiana Territory, have been lost. So by 1800 Simon and his family was likely living in Tennessee, since there should have been record of him if he had continued to live in North or South Carolina, and Census records suggest that most of his younger children were born there.

Birth information for his children suggests that possibly as early as 1793, and certainly by 1795, Simon and his family had moved to Tennessee. And it turns out there is record in 1797 of a Simon Williams living in Sullivan County, Tennessee, which is located in the Great Tennessee Valley in northeastern Tennessee.<sup>11</sup> That was not far from Cumberland Gap, which for several years was the virtually exclusive migration route to the west. About that time, Daniel Boone and his men had completed the widening of the Wilderness Road through the Gap, which opened the route to wagon traffic, starting the Great Western Migration. No Sullivan County land records were found for him, though land records for that period appear to be largely intact.<sup>12</sup>

They seem to have lingered in Tennessee for some time, possibly preferring the relative safety of the area, due to the increased commerce in the area that had been created by a steady stream of settlers that funneled through the area on their way west. There was a great deal of uncertainty in crossing the Cumberland Gap, where conflict with natives was more prevalent. But it may simply have been that they needed to stop and save their money and to make additional preparations before moving farther westward.

By late 1804 they had reached Warren County, Kentucky...

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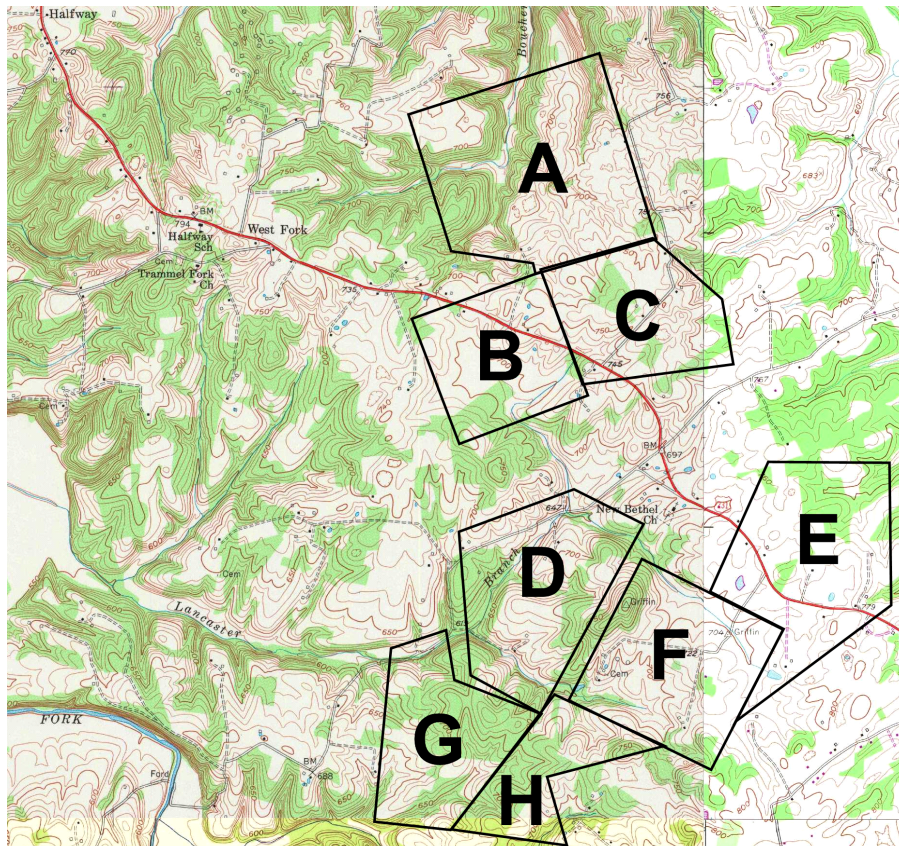
<sup>11</sup> Ancestry.com's *Tennessee, Early Tax List Records, 1783-1895* (2013).

<sup>12</sup> *Sullivan County, Tennessee Deeds, Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4* by Susan Hardin Austin (2002).

## THE FACTS: WARREN COUNTY AND ALLEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

The first record of Simon Williams in Warren County, Kentucky is on 4 Dec 1804, where he, John Spann and John Blasingame were witness to the will of Thomas Blasingame.<sup>13,14</sup> Simon later proved the will at the June 1805 term of the Warren County Court. Exactly why Simon was involved in Thomas' will could not be determined. But John Blasingame had an interest in land near the property of Langston Williams, a mile or two south of Halfway, Kentucky. So there may have been a connection there, but if so it was likely remote.

Langston Williams' father was Thomas Williams, and tracing what is known of their lives and that of Simon Williams prior to his arrival in Warren County uncovered no point where their paths had previously crossed. But it does suggest that when Simon first arrived in Warren County he may have been living in close proximity to these men, at least for a while. The map below shows some properties of potential interest to our understanding of the whereabouts of Simon and another person of interest to us.



*Composite of USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Maps showing properties described in Table 2.03.<sup>15</sup>*

<sup>13</sup> Familysearch.org, *Warren County, Kentucky Wills, Book A*, page 86, image 61 of 199.

<sup>14</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Marriages, 1797-1851 from the original marriage bonds and consents* by Helen Thomas et al (1970) states that he gave his consent on 9 Sep 1803 for his daughter Polly's marriage, but later analysis will show this actually took place in 1807.

<sup>15</sup> Survey locations are derived from *Land Grants of Warren/Allen County, Kentucky* by Adrian Jeffers (1997), pages 114 and 159, and research by the author of early land grants and surveys.

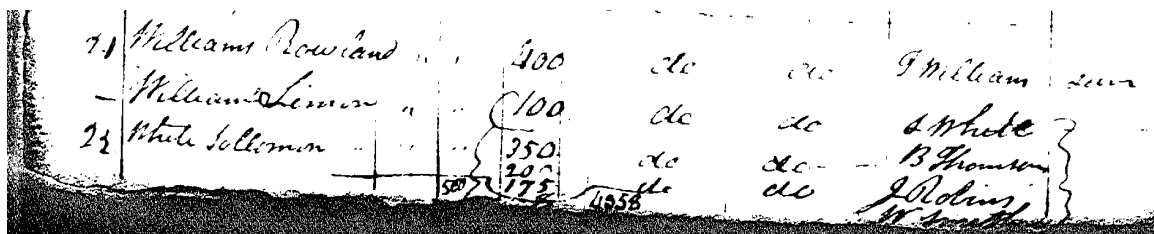


**Table 2.03: Surveys near John Blasingame's land grant.**

ID	Owner(s)	Year of Survey
A	Henry Moore	1807
B	James Travis and Ralph Williams	1820
C	Joseph Venable	1807
D	William Neal	1808
E	Willis Mitchell	1816
F	Langston Williams	1799
G	Jacob Miller (assigned from Wainwright, Blasingame and O'Neill)	1807
H	Langston Williams	1808

The table above is the key to the map on the preceding page. Langston Williams had owned two properties (Properties F and H), one of which abutted that of John Blasingame (Property G). And later you will learn that in 1807 Arthur Johnson (father-in-law to two of Simon's children) had been a chain carrier in the survey of the Henry Moore property (Property A), who may have been related to Arthur Johnson's mother, Winney (Moore) Johnson. Thus the late 1804 will of Thomas Blasingame and the mid-1807 survey for Henry Moore are the only Warren County records that put Arthur Johnson and Simon Williams in reasonably close proximity, but *those events took place years apart*. Tax records show that they had never lived in close proximity in Warren County; Simon lived on Trammel Creek, whereas Arthur lived on Bays Fork. So they likely were not close acquaintances at any time prior to their arrival in Indiana.

On 3 Jun 1805 Simon Williams co-signed a bond for his daughter Sally's future father-in-law, Elder James Martin, which allowed James to perform marriages in Warren County, Kentucky.<sup>16</sup> This was followed six months later by Sally's marriage, which took place on 5 Dec 1805.<sup>17</sup> Simon's daughters Phebe (Williams) Pruitt and Eleanor (Williams) Harmon were married between those two dates (on 3 Jun and 10 Jul, respectively). There is no record of the minister that performed these three marriages, but in Chapter 4 you will see the unsigned returns that include these marriages as compared with a later return that was signed by Elder James Martin. Several factors combine to form the almost inescapable conclusion that he had performed the marriages of all three women.

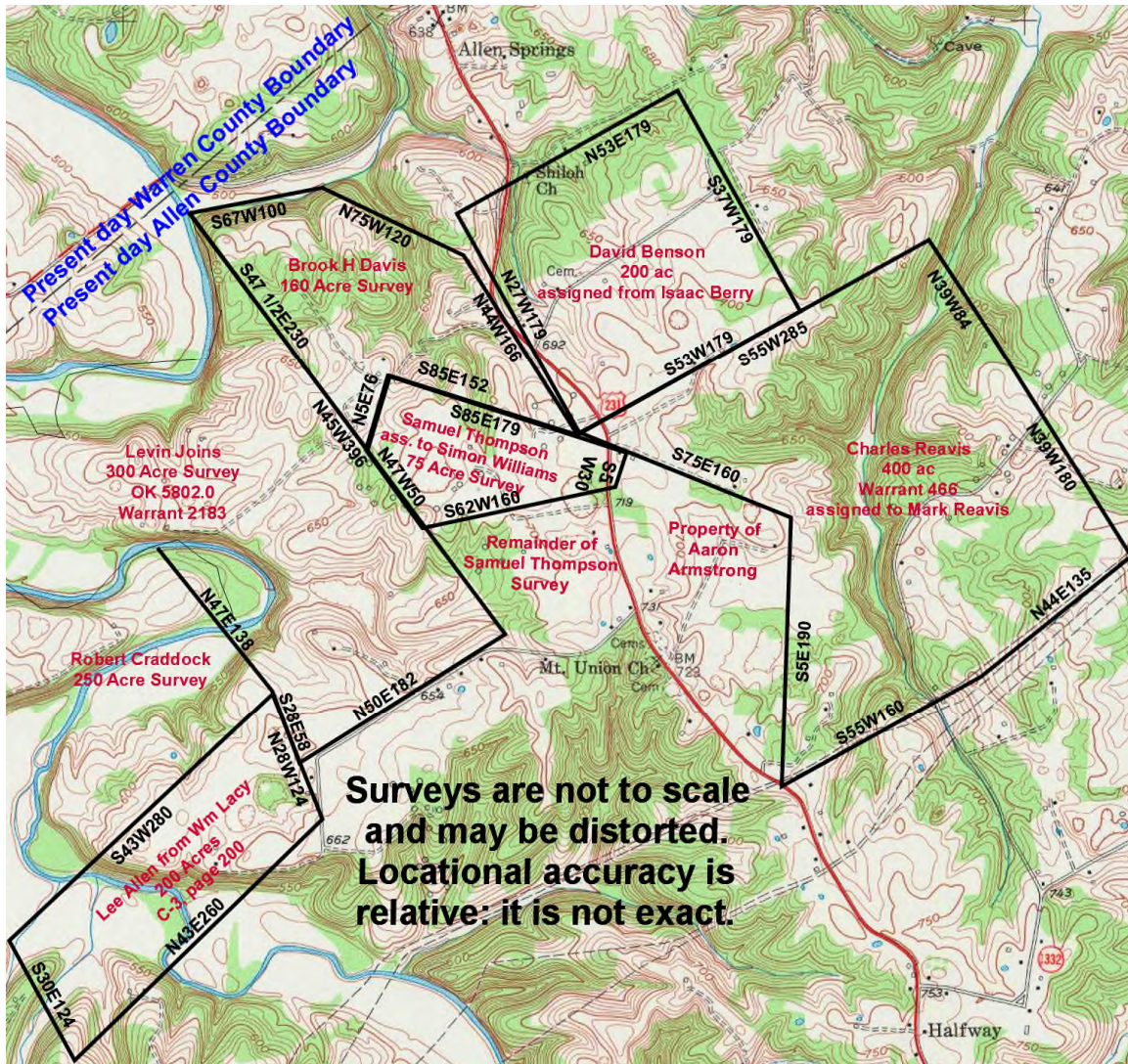


*A portion of the 1805 tax list for Warren County, Kentucky*

<sup>16</sup> *Marriage Records, 1797-1898, Warren County, Kentucky, Bonds for licenses to perform marriages 1798-1859, marriage records 1797-1891, FHL Microfilm #164004.*

<sup>17</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Marriages, 1797-1851 from the original marriage bonds and consents by Helen Thomas et al (1970).*

On 21 Aug 1805, Simon Williams paid taxes in Warren County, Kentucky for one white male aged between 16 and 21, two white males over age 21 and five horses.<sup>18</sup> Whether or not Simon was taxed for any *land* in 1805 is difficult to say. His record on this tax list is confusing, as can be seen from the image above, which makes it appear as though he was not living on the property that he is found on in later tax records. That may not have been the case, as others who also paid taxes on the *same day* in 1805 include David Benson (who at the time was living on land that was surveyed for him) and Lewis Harmon (living on land surveyed for Aaron Armstrong). Thus in 1805 Simon had to have been living near them.



Map showing the 75 acre property acquired by Simon Williams in 1813, and the owners of surrounding property.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1805, List 1, page 19, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>19</sup> Derived by the author from various *South of Green River Land Grant* surveys provided by the office of the Kentucky Secretary of State, as well as the Allen County, Kentucky survey of Lee Allen. The base map is the 1954 Allen Spring, KY 7.5 Minute USGS Quadrangle.



So where were David Benson and Lewis Harmon living in 1805? The map above will help us figure that out. It shows a property that Simon Williams acquired from Samuel Thompson in 1813, along with some key surveys of the properties of his neighbors. This map is the key to understanding many of the tax and other records that we will continue to review in this section. It also helps to better understand when, how and why the worlds of Arthur Johnson and Simon Williams eventually intersected.

Before continuing on with our review of various records of Simon Williams in Warren County, let's jump ahead a bit so that we can analyze and attempt to make sense of the map above. In the following, most citations will be found later in this section or in Chapter 5; the citations included below are only for information is not repeated elsewhere. Based upon various records we will find that:

1. First David Benson (1804),<sup>20</sup> and then James Martin, Senior (1805-1807) had lived on the Charles Reavis property.<sup>21</sup>
2. A year after living on the property of Charles Reavis, David Benson was able to purchase the abutting property to the northwest.<sup>22</sup>
3. From 1803 to well after Simon's family left the area, Micajah Harmon had lived on the Aaron Armstrong property (Lewis Harmon is also found there on later tax lists).<sup>23</sup> It was quite probable that Micajah and Lewis Harmon were related to the family of Arthur and Lucy (Harmon) Johnson. The connection between Arthur's family and Simon's family became closer once Lewis became Simon's son-in-law in 1805. The last of them arrived in Indiana by around 1813, and it was there that they all lived in closest proximity to one another.
4. From 1806 through at least 1813, Simon Williams had lived on the property of Brooks Hall Davis.<sup>24</sup> Given that his son Lewis had married Elender Cater there in 1810, and that two of Elender's siblings had married Davises (presumably before arriving in Kentucky), it was likely a Davis family connection that had brought the Williams and Cater families together. After Brooks' death, Simon ended up owning the entire property, which he was forced to acquire from Brooks' heirs. It may have been that Brooks had mortgaged the property to Simon and that he was in the process of acquiring the deed when Brooks died.
5. First Bennet Williams (1807) and then Simon Williams (from 1809 to at least 1813) had lived on the property of Samuel Thompson. In 1813, 75 acres of that property was deeded to Simon Williams.
6. Lee Allen was the relative late-comer to the neighborhood and would also be the last to leave. He showed up on tax rolls in 1807 and lived on this farm into the 1820s.

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<sup>20</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1804, List 2, page 3, FHL microfilm #8255.*

<sup>21</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Series Kentucky Land Grants, Book 20, page 19, Survey #8009, Certificate #466.*

<sup>22</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Series Kentucky Land Grants, Book 6, page 396, Survey #9685, Certificate #1918.*

<sup>23</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1803, List 1, page 16, FHL microfilm #8255.*

<sup>24</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Series Kentucky Land Grants, Book 14, page 568, Survey #11326, Certificate #432.*

7. Brooks Hall Davis' wife was Sarah Lacy, daughter of William Hughes Lacy. As you will learn later in greater detail, Lee Allen had purchased from William Hughes Lacy the 200 acre property shown on the above map for "a valuable consideration and one dollar." With William Hughes Lacy, Lee Allen and Brooks Davis having lived for a time in Pendleton District, South Carolina, it hints that somehow these families may be related, though no such connection was found while researching this book.

Returning to our chronological review of available public records, the 1806 tax list provides the first clear evidence of where Simon was living in Warren County. It shows that on 20 May he was living on 100 acres entered by Brooks Davis on the waters of Trammel Creek.<sup>25</sup> Simon was also taxed for two adults over 21 years of age and three horses. Others who paid taxes on the same day in 1806 included Lewis Harmon, James Martin, Senior and James Martin, Junior. Bennet Williams was married on 20 Dec 1806, so he was likely still living with Simon when the taxman visited the area that year.

In 1807 Simon Williams (definitely Simon, though the first name looks a lot like James) was living on 100? (hard to read) acres on Trammel Creek that had been entered by Brooks Davis, one white male over 21, one white male aged between 16 and 21, and two horses.<sup>26</sup> Listed after him was George Williams, who was taxed for one male over 21 and one horse. Next was the listing for Bennet Williams, who was taxed for 75 acres of third rate land entered by Samuel Thompson, one male over age 21 and one horse.

Likely in 1807, Simon's daughter Polly (Williams) Harmon was married. This was also the point at which Arthur Johnson (who would later become father-in-law to two of Simon's children) and Elder James Martin (who at the time was father-in-law to two of Simon's children) had left Warren County for Indiana Territory.

On 11 May 1809, Simon Williams paid tax in Warren County, Kentucky, where he was assessed for 100 acres of third rate land on Trammel Creek that had been entered by B. Davis, 150 acres of third rate land entered by S. Thompson (apparently including the 75 acres that Bennet had been taxed for in 1807, since by 1809 Bennet was in Indiana Territory), as well as for one male over age 21 and two horses.<sup>27</sup> So George once again was landless and paid his taxes on the same day as Simon. Thus, for at least a few years George had been living on Simon's property, *which is very strong circumstantial evidence that he was Simon's son* (though the point is not a contentious one, this is a key piece of evidence proving their relationship).

The 1810 tax records for Warren County, Kentucky are missing, but Simon appears in the 1810 Census for Warren County, where he is living in a household with two males and two females aged 10 to 15, two males aged 16 to 25, and one male and one female over 45 years of age. The 1810 Census is not of great help in determining Simon's proximity to other families who had been living nearby the prior few years; while the Census pages

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<sup>25</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1806, List 2, page 28, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>26</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1807, List 2, page 26, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>27</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1809, List 1, page 73, FHL microfilm #8255.

are numbered, they are not in the order that the lists were enumerated, as will be proven in a later section in Chapter 5 about the Pruitts. But several of Simon's sons were still living in the area, and Lewis Williams was married there in early 1810.

In 1811 Simon Williams was living on 310 acres of third rate land on Trammel Creek which had been surveyed for Simon Williams and entered by Brooks Davis (and that almost certainly included Samuel Thompson's property). In addition to being taxed for the land he also paid for one male over age 21 and four horses. Two entries above his name is the record for Lewis Williams, and George Williams is found on the entry above that. Both men paid the poll tax, plus George had two horses and Lewis had one horse.<sup>28</sup> Living between Simon and Lewis was John Wilbanks (the surname is difficult to read, but the last letter appears to be a K and it definitely does not look like Williams). They all appear to have been living on the waters of Trammel Creek.

Simon appears in the 1812 tax list, with George listed just below him, with neither man being taxed for land.<sup>29</sup> Simon was in Warren County, Kentucky for the marriage of his son William Williams to Martha Allen on 10 Sep 1812.<sup>30</sup> The marriages of his remaining children took place in Indiana in 1816 or later.

On 2 Jan 1813, Simon Williams had 75 acres of land on the waters of Trammel Creek surveyed, which had been granted to Samuel Thompson in Mar 1802.<sup>31,32</sup> This was the parcel that was shown on the earlier map of surveys, which he had been living on in 1809 and it was more than likely the 75 acres that Bennet had been living on in 1807. Samuel had assigned the property to Simon on 3 Dec 1811 (or possibly 1812, the writing is faint), with Balaam and Ephraim Thompson as witnesses. With that in hand, the property was surveyed on 2 Jan 1813 by J. W. Covington, with E. W. Covington acting as chain carrier. Witnesses were Moses Prewett [sic] and George Williams. Earlier that year, on 5 Jun 1811, Samuel Thompson had purchased a nearby 455 acre property, with Lee Allen acting as one of the witnesses.<sup>33</sup>

The description of the property acquired by Simon reads thus:

*“Beginning at a black oak running thence south 85 degrees east 179 poles to three black gums, thence south 5 degrees west 30 poles to a stake, thence south 62 degrees west 160 poles to three poplars on a line of **Leven Jones** [sic: Levin Joins] 300 acre Military Survey, thence with said line north 47 ½ degrees west 50 poles to four Hickories, thence north 5 degrees east 76 poles to the Beginning Survey.”*

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<sup>28</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1811, List 1, page 79, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>29</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1812, List 1, page 79, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>30</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Marriages, 1797-1851 from the original marriage bonds and consents by Helen Thomas et al (1970).

<sup>31</sup> Ancestry.com's Kentucky, Land Grants, 1782-1924 (1997).

<sup>32</sup> Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Series Kentucky Land Grants, Book 15, page 323, Survey #11327, Certificate #698.

<sup>33</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Deeds, Book D-4, page 392.



On that *same day*, Brooks Hall Davis had 160 acres of land surveyed, with Moses Prewett [sic] and George Williams again acting as witnesses.<sup>34</sup> Brooks died around 1814 in Caldwell County, Kentucky. *[NOTE: The portion of Warren County being discussed here became part of Allen County, Kentucky when that county was formed in 1815.]* It seems that Simon was owed a portion of this property, since on 21 Nov 1816, Simon Williams of the state of Indiana and county of Gibson appointed Thomas Spann to act as his attorney to convey by deed “150 acres of land or whatever I may obtain against the heirs of Brook [sic] H. Davis” to Thomas Cooksee [sic] (Thomas Cooksey was another transplant from Brunswick County, Virginia, and his daughters [Sarah and Elizabeth] married the sons of Micajah Harmon [Lewis and Aden]). D. Walker, Junior witnessed the deed.<sup>35</sup> On 20 Aug 1818, Thomas Spann acted as Simon Williams’ attorney in selling the above property to Thomas Cooksey for \$350.<sup>36</sup> On 18 May 1819 the deed was re-recorded to provide a more adequate and unambiguous legal description, as follows:<sup>37</sup>

*“Beginning at a sycamore at the mouth of a branch or small drain the Beginning corner of **Levin Joins** [sic] 300 acre military survey and runing [sic] thence with his line So47 ½ E230po [note: po = poles] to 4 hickories, then N5E76po to a black oak the beginning corner of **Samuel Thompsons** survey, thence N88E46po to a hickory, white oak & dogwood, then N69E63po to a hickory and chestnut thence N44W108po to a poplar, thence N75W120po to 3 white oaks, thence S67W100po to the Beginning, which tract of land was originally conveyed to **Brooke H. Davis** by patent dated November 11<sup>th</sup> 1814 from sd **Brooke H. Davis** to the above named **Simon Williams** by **David Walker** Comr under a decree of the Circuit Court of Allen County dated Augt 5<sup>th</sup> 1818 all of record as by reference thereunto as will more fully appear containing 170 acres be the same more or less & all houses, buildings, orchards, way?? Waters, watercourses, property commodities Hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the premises...”*

Simon appears to have never been a land owner until just before he left Kentucky, when he acquired these two properties totaling about 245 acres located along the main road between Bowling Green and Scottsville. Several long term friendships in Indiana had likely been forged during his relatively brief residence in Kentucky. The preceding analysis leaves no doubt why Simon’s children had married into the families of Elder James Martin, Lee Allen and the Harmons, and hints at where and when the family of Arthur Johnson had become closely acquainted with the family of Simon Williams.

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<sup>34</sup> Kentucky Secretary of State, *South of Green River Series Kentucky Land Grants, Book 14*, page 568, Survey #11326, Certificate #432.

<sup>35</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Deeds, Book B 1815-1819*, page 106.

<sup>36</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Deeds, Book B 1815-1819*, page 338.

<sup>37</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Deeds, Book B 1815-1819*, pages 423 and 424.

## Another Simon Williams

There are additional Warren County records for a Simon Williams, but he is not our Simon Williams. While there are records of our Simon Williams in Warren County, Kentucky, all research points to him having lived only in the portion that became Allen County, Kentucky in 1815. The Simon Williams described in the records below lived farther north than our Simon and arrived after our Simon had left the state:

- On 11 Oct 1822 a Simon Williams helped to appraise the estate of Abner Nanney in Warren County, Kentucky.<sup>38</sup>
- On 16 Jan 1824 a Simon Williams was a purchaser at the estate sale of John Ennis in Warren County, Kentucky.<sup>39</sup>
- At the Jan 1825 term of the Warren County, Kentucky Probate Court, a Simon Williams is listed as one of the accounts in the estate of Richard Sherry.<sup>40</sup>
- On 3 Feb 1832, a Simon Williams was a witness to the will of Joseph R. Allcock. Alfred George and Elizabeth George were witnesses.<sup>41,42</sup>
- On 29 Jul 1834, a Simon Williams was a witness to the will of James Edmunds.<sup>43</sup>

In the 1830 Census for Warren County, Kentucky is the household of Simon Williams, aged 40-50, which included two daughters aged 15-20 and a wife aged 40-50. Listed as living nearby are Joseph R. Allcock and Pernach George, so this almost certainly the Simon in the above 1832 will. This Simon's age shows clearly that this was not our Simon; his wife was Nancy George.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> *Record of Wills, Warren County, Kentucky* by Annie Walker Burns (1936), page 1 (?-somewhat illegible). The original document is found in *Warren County, Kentucky Wills, Book B*, page 496.

<sup>39</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky, Wills and Inventories, Book C, July Term 1823 through January Term 1827* by Sandra K. Gorin (1993), page 27. (1993)

<sup>40</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky, Wills and Inventories, Book C, July Term 1823 through January Term 1827* by Sandra K. Gorin (1993), pages 36 and 37.

<sup>41</sup> *Record of Wills, Warren County, Kentucky* by Annie Walker Burns (1936), page 9 (?-somewhat illegible). This source states that the original document is found in *Warren County, Kentucky Wills, Book D*, page 66, the will itself says that it was record on page 37 of *Book D*.

<sup>42</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Wills, Book D*, page 613 (familysearch.org image 615 of 941).

<sup>43</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Wills, Book D*, page 69.

<sup>44</sup> *Harrison County, Kentucky Deeds, Volume 9-10*. FHL #216853, estate of Gabriel George dated 15 Dec 1826. This includes an indenture between Gabriel George of Harrison County and Alfred George of Warren County, which identifies Gabriel's daughter Nancy as the wife of Simon Williams.

## THE FACTS: INDIANA TERRITORY AND INDIANA

As noted earlier, the first evidence of Simon Williams in Indiana was at an election held on 27 Mar 1813, which was just two months after his Kentucky property had been surveyed.

Simon Williams had entered 160 acres of land in Posey County from the Federal Government on 28 Mar 1814,<sup>45</sup> the northern boundary of which abuts the current town limits of Cynthiana as depicted in the map below. This was clearly the epicenter of the pioneer Williams families of Smith Township. Big Creek Baptist Church was located on the next quarter section to the east (on land entered by Jonathan Jacques), providing a nearby gathering place for friends, in-laws, neighbors and business associates.

Robert Montgomery 1834	George Harmon 1837	James Nesbit 1833	Avery Allen 1832	Elisha Kimball 17 Dec 1818	James Williams 1831	Lewis Williams 1831	Joel Yager 1831
William Wilcox 1839							
Thomas McClure 10 Feb 1815		John Smith 18 Sep 1815		David Benson 15 Oct 1813		Thomas Duncan 23 Sep 1815	
George & Bennett Williams 28 Dec 1814		George & Bennett Williams 20 Jul 1814		Simon Williams 28 Mar 1814		Jonathan Jacques 8 Oct 1816	
William Downey 24 Dec 1814				George Eaton 7 Mar 1817	Herndon Meadows 1831	William Gambrel 1831	

*Parcel map of initial land entries for the sections surrounding the patent of Simon Williams.*

<sup>45</sup> Page 4, *Genealogy Lists of Posey County, IN, Volume I* by Darlene McConnell (1996).

There is a court case dated 11 Feb 1815 where David Benson (who in the above map is Simon's abutting neighbor to the north) was charged with an affray (a group fighting in a public place that disturbs the peace) which occurred "at James Martin's." Simon Williams posted his bond.<sup>46</sup>

A month later, Simon Williams was a witness when John Armstrong sued William Benson and Moses Pruitt for slander, though both men later stated under oath that they had never charged the plaintiff with stealing their hogs.<sup>47</sup> The case was dismissed with the defendants being ordered to pay their costs and those of the plaintiff.

A case on 1 Feb 1815 likely ties these two events together. John Armstrong had challenged David Benson to a duel with muskets, and it seems the two men were arrested. James Rice Waters posted John Armstrong's bond, with William Benson and Moses Pruitt posting bond for David Benson. Both men lived well beyond this date, suggesting that the time under arrest was sufficient to resolve the issue without a shot being fired.<sup>48</sup>

On 13 Oct 1815, Simon Williams, together with Jesse Kimball and Thomas McClure, appraised the estate of William Kenedy [sic].<sup>49</sup> Sampson Johnson (husband of Winnie Williams), George Williams and Simon Williams were buyers at the estate sale.

Simon Williams is *not* found in the 1820 Census for Smith Township, Posey County. He is found there in the 1830 Census with his wife and a female between the ages of 5 and 9.

A Simon Williams and George Williams were buyers at the estate sale of Major W. Holland in Allen County, Kentucky on 16 Jan 1832. There are at least three possibilities for which Simon Williams this was: 1) the Simon Williams that lived in Warren County, Kentucky after 1815, 2) Bennet Williams' son, or 3) our Simon Williams. With George's presence at the sale (and no other George Williams that are known to have lived in the vicinity), the two latter possibilities are more likely, but equally so.<sup>50</sup>

There were three transactions where Simon's 160 acre patent in Section 14 was split, resulting in three equal-area parcels (in the measurements below, one pole equals sixteen and a half feet):

- **Property A:** On 13 Sep 1821 Simon and his wife Anna sold 53 1/3 acres of their 160 acre patent in Section 14 to John Williams for \$53.33 1/3. The witnesses were Geo. F Jacquess and Job Tillet.<sup>51</sup> The property was 53 1/3 poles long by 160 poles wide.
- **Property B:** On 2 Jul 1834 Simon Williams, Senior sold to Enoch Williams for \$150, a portion the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 14. Witnesses: Bennet

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<sup>46</sup> *Moses Pruitt, Sr. & Rachel, their descendants* by Richard A. Prewitt (Typescript, 1997), page 19.

<sup>47</sup> *Moses Pruitt, Sr. & Rachel, their descendants* by Richard A. Prewitt (Typescript, 1997), page 19.

<sup>48</sup> *Moses Pruitt, Sr. & Rachel, their descendants* by Richard A. Prewitt (Typescript, 1997), page 19.

<sup>49</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Wills, Book A*, pages 194-198.

<sup>50</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Wills and Settlements, 1815-1902* by Mary Moltenberry Rabold and Elizabeth Moltenberry Price (1972), page 1.

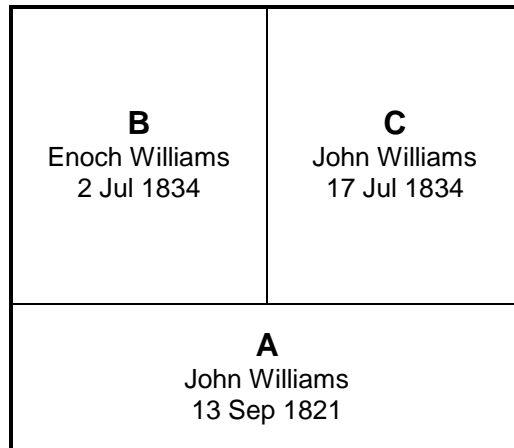
<sup>51</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book C*, page 308.

Williams and Leland Cleveland.<sup>52</sup> The property was 106 poles long by 80 poles wide.

- **Property C:** On 17 Jul 1834 Simon Williams, Senior sold to John Williams for \$150, the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 14. Witnesses: Bennet Williams and Noble Craig. The property was 106 poles long by 80 poles wide.<sup>53</sup>

The execution of the two deeds in 1834 tells us that Anna was no longer living then, as had she still been alive, it would have been necessary for her to waive her dower right in those lands. So she died some time between the 1830 Census and 2 Jul 1834. It could have been Anna's death that prompted Simon to consider passing the remainder of his property on to his heirs.

So, once the above noted deeds were executed, Simon's original 160 acres looked as shown below.



*Plot plan of Simon Williams' 160 acre patent after it was split into thirds.*

With this knowledge come three burning questions:

1. Were Properties A & C owned by one John Williams or two?
2. Which John Williams was this?
3. How did he relate to Simon?

Properties A & C were both sold by John Williams and his wife Elizabeth on 28 Jan 1839, in deeds to Enoch Williams and Charles Whiting. Both deeds were witnessed by Joseph Price and James R. Williams, so the answer to question one is that clearly one couple owned both properties.<sup>54</sup> There are three known possibilities for identifying which John Williams had executed these deeds:

<sup>52</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G, page 82.

<sup>53</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G, page 86. This deed is a source of confusion about whether Simon had a son or father named Simon. The deed index shows the seller to be Simon William, Junior. However, that is incorrect. There are two instances in the deed transcription where it is unclear if the owner is Junior or Senior, but there are two additional times that Simon's name is listed in the deed and in both of those it is clear that this was Simon Williams, Senior.

<sup>54</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book I, page 189 (to Enoch Williams) and 190 (to Charles Whiting).

1. The John Williams who married Elizabeth Rook in 1818 (they lived in Harmony Township), whom we'll call Tennessee John Williams to help differentiate him from the two John Williams that follow,
2. John Marshall Williams (son of Bennet Williams) who married Elizabeth Allen in 1828, and
3. John Williams, Junior (son of John Clark Williams) who married Elizabeth Creek in 1824.

So, of these three men, only Tennessee John Williams was married at the time that Simon deeded the property away. Bennet Williams' son was only 13 years old at the time, and John Clark Williams' son was only 14 years old (according to his gravestone, though it is possible that he was actually closer to 18 years old). So clearly it seems more probable that Tennessee John Williams was the recipient of the deeds. But what other evidence supports such speculation?

1. The marriage of John Williams and Elizabeth Rook was performed by Elder James Martin, thus they were definitely in the right neighborhood in 1818.
2. Frankie Rook (almost certainly Elizabeth's sister or cousin) was a charter member in Big Creek Baptist Church in 1813. The church was located on the quarter section that abutted Simon's property to the east.
3. Joseph Price (witness to both deeds) was the second husband of the widow Margaret Rook, who was the mother of Tennessee John's wife, as the following paragraph will establish.

Forty acres of land was conveyed in a gift deed dated 6 Oct 1829 from Joseph and Margaret Price "in consideration of the natural love and affection toward the said John Williams, being the son-in-law of the said Joseph & Margaret Price." The property was located in the SE ¼ of Section 28, T4S, R13W (in Harmony Township) "of the lands directed to be sold at Vincennes and patterned [sic: patented] to Margaret Rook," containing 40 acres, more or less.<sup>55,56</sup> The witnesses were William Williams and Elisha Stallings. Thus, Margaret (maiden name unknown, possibly Rogers) Rook Price was the mother of John Williams' wife, Elizabeth Rook.

Since in 1834 Simon sold the remainder of his patent to Enoch and John Williams, the answer to the third question is Tennessee John Williams was Simon's son, as was Enoch. As you will learn in depth later, Enoch's share of the property contained the family cemetery, where Enoch's headstone is found with the headstones of three of Simon's other children (George, Lewis and Jemima). The deeds noted above are the only direct evidence for any John Williams being the son of Simon Williams.

With that out of the way, let's speculate about Francis, who may or may not have been another son of Simon's. First, Simon split his property three ways, so you would think that he originally intended for it to go to three, not just two, of his sons. The fact that didn't happen suggests that the other son died before those two final deeds were

<sup>55</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book E, page 228.

<sup>56</sup> Margaret received the patent to this land on 25 Mar 1818 (*General Land Office Records*, Accession # CV-0038-204).



executed. Rather than pay to have the property re-surveyed, Simon may have simply had John and Enoch toss a coin to see who would receive the remaining share. If so, it would appear that John won the toss.

But there is no Francis Williams living in the vicinity of Cynthiana, nor in any of the surrounding counties, and there is no male his age in Simon's 1830 household (Francis would have been about 33 years old at the time).

However, in the 1830 Census there is 30 to 39 year old Robert Williams, who had married the widow Polly Simpson in 1824. He is found living next door to William Harmon and three doors down from George Williams. He is not found in any further records (Census, estate or otherwise), and the fate of his wife and family are not known. Could this have been the mysterious Francis (i.e. Robert Francis Williams)? Did Francis ever exist, or was he simply Mrs. Ramsey's mistranscription of the name Enoch? We'll likely never know the answer to such questions, but the point appears to be moot: with no known descendants, the story of Robert and/or Francis Williams ends here, regardless of any musings as to his family connections. But such speculation would explain why three shares of Simon's property went to only two of his sons.

Simon's sale of the final third of his property is the last known record of his existence. There are later deeds for a Simon Williams in the area surrounding Cynthiana, but they were all executed by his grandsons, as discussed in an analysis of said deeds that can be found in *Volume 2, Addendum 3*.

“The palest ink is better  
than the sharpest memory.”  
- CHINESE PROVERB

## CHAPTER 3:

### THE INDIANA FRONTIER, CIRCA 1816

Before we start digging up the details of Simon's family, let's take a moment to attempt to comprehend the environment that they found themselves in upon their arrival in Indiana Territory in 1814. On page 51 of the *Western Gazetteer; or Emigrant's Directory* by Samuel R. Brown (1817) appears a census for Indiana as of Nov 1815. The source for this information is not given, though it gives the total (white) population of Indiana as 68,780. Gibson County boasted a population of 5,330;<sup>57</sup> and Posey County (which at the time included half of Vanderburgh County) had a population of just 3,000<sup>58</sup> – that equates to a population density of about seven people per square mile, or less than one person for every one hundred acres. Several hundred of those people were likely members of George Rapp's Harmonist Society, who had settled in what is present day New Harmony around the same time as our Williams ancestors. That population further reduces the number of people per square mile to less than six. With 640 acres in a square mile, that equates to only one person per every 100 acres of land!

Indiana prior to the War of 1812 was truly an untamed wilderness, full of thick virgin-growth forests with dense, matted vines and undergrowth. The trees were so close together that the dead trees could not fall to the earth, but would lean against their neighbors like wounded soldiers. Wolves, panthers, rattlesnakes and bear were abundant, as was all game.

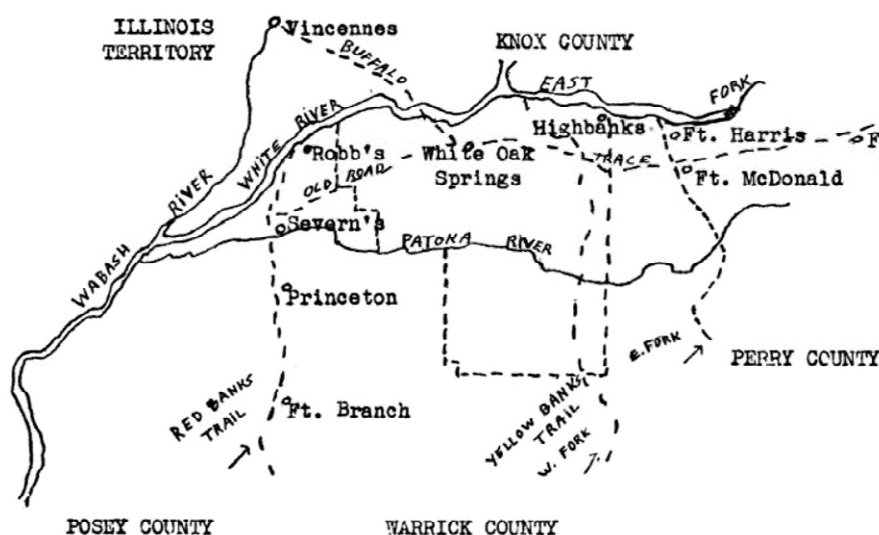
Indiana's dense primeval forests meant that there were few cleared areas that were ready for cultivation, and there were no roads – just the trails used by the natives and the wildlife. One such route was the old Buffalo Trace, an east-west migratory route used by the buffalo of the Illinois prairies to reach the Blue Grass region of Kentucky, crossing the Ohio River Falls near Louisville, Kentucky. Another was the Red Banks Trail, which extended due south from Vincennes, Indiana to the Ohio River across from present-day Henderson, Kentucky (then known as Red Banks). A spur road leaves the Buffalo Trace at White Oak Springs, Indiana (near present day Petersburg, Indiana), connecting with the Red Banks Trail at Severn's Ferry across the Patoka River (in the vicinity of present day Patoka). Princeton was located just a few miles to the south, with Cynthiana being approximately an additional twelve miles to the south-southwest.

Most travel and commerce was conducted on the rivers, so the further from a navigable waterway, the more isolated the community. Cynthiana was located about six miles east from the closest point of a navigable river, the Wabash, and nearly ten miles to the crossing of the Wabash River at New Harmony. But its isolation was lessened by its proximity to the native trails just mentioned.

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<sup>57</sup> A separate account by David Baillie Warden states that this was Gibson County's population in 1810.

<sup>58</sup> This is likely a guesstimate, but is still a reasonable measure of the sparse population at that date. By 1820 the west half of Vanderburgh County was no longer part of Posey County. At that time the population of Posey County was 4, 044.



MAP III. Gibson County, settlements and roads, 1815. Population as of territorial census of 1815 was 5,330. Pike County boundaries as of 1940 indicated by dotted line. Scale 24 miles to 1 inch.

**SOURCE: Indiana Magazine of History, Vol. 36, No. 3 (Sep 1940),  
The First Families of White Oak Springs, 1810 to 1817  
by Margaret Story Jean and Aline Jean Trenor.**

## IMPRESSIONS FROM OUTSIDERS

Living at Princeton, Indiana in 1818, Elias Pym Fordham wrote that “We hear the howling of the wolves every evening, as they are driven back from the farmyards by the dogs, who flock together to repel the invaders.”<sup>59</sup>

Further describing his travels across Indiana that year, Fordham wrote “When, on the barren peak of some rocky hill, you catch a distant view, it generally is nothing but an undulating surface of impenetrable forest.” He goes on to state that “it is seldom that a view of two hundred yards in extent can be caught in Indiana,” because “Indiana is a vast forest...just penetrated in places by backwoods settlers who are half hunters, half farmers.”

Another traveler of the time, William Faux, elaborated on the appearance and demeanor of the settlers:

*“The American, considered as an animal, is filthy, bordering on the beastly; as a man, he seems a being of superior capabilities; his attention to his teeth, which are generally very white, is a fine exception to his general habits. All his vices and imperfections seem natural; those of a semi-barbarian. He is ashamed of none of them... [Yet] however mean may be the exterior of a citizen of this free, equal country, there is a spirit and an intelligence, and often sprightliness about him, which decorate any thing and make even rags respectable.”*

<sup>59</sup> Personal narrative of travels in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Elias Pym Fordham and Frederic Austin Ogg (1906).

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

The vast majority of early settlers arrived with little in the way of possessions: a horse and saddle, and perhaps a cow. An axe and rifle were essential, as were some knives and some sort of iron pan or pot for cooking. Some seeds were necessary: at a minimum for corn and potatoes, but also for hard squash and gourds, which served many utilitarian functions as ladles, bowls and miscellaneous containers.

Abraham Lincoln moved to Indiana at roughly the same time as the Williams clan and lived about 30 miles east, in Spencer County. He later recalled how in Indiana he “was almost constantly handling that most useful instrument,” the axe – to clear land, harvest logs for shelter and fuel, and splitting rails to fence out unwanted intruders. No doubt this was the same for most young men helping to carve out a home for his family from the Indiana frontier.

When people first arrived on the frontier, everything was of a temporary nature – housing, fencing, furniture, bedding, etc. New clothing was of dressed, untanned (or very crudely tanned) buckskin. More traditional material for clothing, such as cotton or linsey-woolsey (a coarse cloth made of linen and cotton), was generally only available if the families literally grew, spun and wove it themselves (cotton did not grow well in Indiana, but it was possible to grow small amounts of it). Footwear was fashioned from the hides of deer, elk or buffalo, and gloves from squirrel hides. The kinky hair of buffalo was sometimes woven together with fiber from wild nettle to form a yarn that was woven into strong and comfortable clothing.

Fortunately for the earliest settlers, there were wild native plants that could be dried for winter use and game was plentiful. For weeks at a time their only food would be the meat of wild game. Roasted acorns were used as a substitute for bread, and acorns together with the seeds of wild rice and wild barley would be pounded together to make “ash cakes.”<sup>60</sup> The ash cake was so called because the dough was wrapped in broad leaves (cabbage, corn shucks, native vegetation, etc), then placed in the hearth to bake by covering it with hot embers.

Most households were lucky if they owned as much as a skillet with a lid for their sole cooking utensil. Those that lacked even a skillet would attempt to fashion a crock out of clay, baking it as hot as could be. The unglazed pots were very porous and thus inefficient, but they made do as best they could. There likely were no stoves available before 1820 and they were far from common until after 1835, so initially most cooking was done over an open fire. A lucky few owned a copper boiling pot, allowing for stews of boiled meat and vegetables, while the majority would have to wait until the later availability of two gallon iron pots, which would allow them to vastly expand their menu choices.

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<sup>60</sup> *Pioneer History of Indiana*, William Monroe Cockrum (1883).



At first only a modest amount of cultivation was necessary to meet the needs of early families. To clear land for planting, large trees were “girdled” by removing a layer of bark from the base of the tree. This stopped the flow of sap, eventually killing the crown and allowing sunlight to reach the crops below. Smaller trees were felled for building materials and fuel. The larger trees were simply burned in place. Crop areas were initially kept small because tall fences were necessary to prevent wild animals from eating or trampling cultivated plants. Corn was usually the first crop to be cultivated. This was known to have been combined with beetles, seasoned with bear grease and made into bread!



*Spring – Burning Trees in a Girdled Clearing  
by George Harvey circa 1840.*

*From the collection of the Brooklyn Museum.*

### **ONGOING NEEDS**

On the frontier there was little cash to meet a family's needs beyond subsistence – to obtain salt, sugar, coffee and to pay taxes, purchase tools, gunpowder, lead, etc. Early pioneers raised hogs to obtain cash as well as to help clear the dense forest underbrush, and they raised corn to produce liquor, another source of income in the frontier economy. The hogs would be butchered starting in November, as the cold weather minimized the chance of spoilage while the meat was being cured. The hams and liquor, along with furs and any other items of value, such as wild honey, beeswax, and downy feathers would be bartered for needed items. Merchants consolidated these items and shipped them downriver, where they were sold for cash.

Acquiring salt was perhaps the most important concern in the early Indiana frontier, as the pioneers required significant amounts of it to preserve meat. Up until about 1820 it was hard to get and therefore expensive, running from 12 to 20 cents per pound. By comparison, at the same time a bear skin would be worth 50 cents, a deer skin 20 cents and a raccoon skin from 15 to 20 cents. While there were nearby saline springs along the Wabash River, they were insufficient to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population. At the time, the largest local source of salt in the region was to the southwest in Saline County, Illinois, in the salt springs of the Saline River near Shawneetown, known as the United States Salines. Once this area was commercialized, availability increased and the price of salt declined to around 5 cents per pound. By 1825 salt became even more of a commodity, as steamboat navigation allowed efficient

distribution of more easily extracted salt reserves, principally those in the Kanawha River Valley of West Virginia.<sup>61</sup>

One sought-after luxury, once life had settled to a point where it was possible to even ponder such things, was a feather bed. When wild turkeys were hunted the women would pick the fine feathers off, often using them as currency to purchase the goods of traveling peddlers. Once the fox and bobcat populations were thinned out it was possible to raise geese. A flock of 20 to 50 head would be plucked every six weeks or so. Many pioneer women were known to bear black and blue bruises from one plucking to the next, caused by the goose's efforts to avoid being robbed of its downy feathers.

## **SHELTER**

The first shelter was likely to be a "half-faced camp," a three sided structure with a fire placed at the opening, which would later be replaced by a rough log cabin. The camp was fashioned by putting two large forks in the ground parallel to a large fallen tree. Beams would be strung from the forks to the fallen tree, with rafters across the beams. At first, brush was piled on top to form a roof and logs were stacked on the two sides to provide shelter from the elements. Later in the year the structure would be covered with hides, which kept the rain out while at the same time allowing the skins to dry.

Later, usually with the help of neighbors, a simple cabin would be built from logs, with a mud and rock fireplace at one end. The roof would be made of boards rough hewn with a frow or adze, which would be held in place by weighted poles. Pieces of timber would be wedged into the cracks between the logs and then filled in with mud. An opening was left for a doorway, with a bear skin being used to protect the occupants from the elements. There was no glass to be had and window sashes were not yet available, so the door was the only opening. The floor was bare earth.

Such homes and the appearance of the earliest settlers did not impress travelers, as described in this account by William Faux of his trip between the main towns of Knox County and Gibson County in 1819:<sup>62</sup>

*"I saw nothing between Vincennes and Princeton, a ride of forty miles, but miserable log holes, and a mean ville of eight or ten huts or cabins, sad neglected farms, and indolent, dirty, sickly, wild-looking inhabitants. Soap is nowhere seen or found in any of the taverns east or west. Hence dirty hands, heads, and faces are everywhere. Here is nothing clean but wild beasts and birds, nothing industrious generally, except pigs, which are so of necessity... Nothing happy but squirrels, their life seems all play, and that of the hogs all work."*

Senator O. H. Smith in his book, *Early Indiana Trials and Sketches* (1857), provides the following sketch which gives a succinct view of life in this early time:

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<sup>61</sup> *The Early Salt Trade of the Ohio Valley*, Isaac Lippincott, Journal of Political Economy, Vol. 20, No. 10 (Dec 1912).

<sup>62</sup> Page 98, *Indiana History: A Book of Readings*, Ralph D. Gray, 1994.

*“At the time I came to the State in March, 1817, there was not a railroad in the United States, nor a canal west of the Alleghany mountains. The telegraph had not been discovered, fire was struck by the flint and steel, the falling spark was caught in "punk" taken from the knots of the hickory tree.*

*“There was not a foot of turnpike road in the State, and plank roads had never been heard of. The girdled standing trees covered the cultivated fields; the shovel-plow the only cultivator; no roads west of Whitewater; not a bridge in the State; the traveling all done on horseback, the husband mounted before on the saddle, with one to three of the youngest children in his arms—the wife, with a spread cover reaching to the tail of the horse, seated behind, with the balance of the children, unable to walk, in her lap.”*

## **DANGERS**

Wolves were viewed as treacherous and cowardly by the early pioneers, as they were seldom seen unless they had a distinct advantage. They would often attack livestock at night, and it often happened that when tracking wounded game a hunter would find that several wolves had cut in on the trail ahead of him.

In an attempt to abate the wolf problem, as early as 1815 Gibson County offered a bounty of one dollar per wolf scalp, which provided yet another means for families to raise some needed cash. With so many veterans of the War of 1812, the Indian Wars and the Revolution, there was no shortage of skilled marksmen, with some men bringing in as many as a dozen or more scalps at a time. It was not long before wolves were scarce and encounters with humans became increasingly rare.

Other wild animals were also a concern. Bears were generally shy, but could be very aggressive when a mate or cub was threatened. A more sinister, though rarer, danger was from panthers. They would lurk in trees near places that would attract prey, such as springs and salt licks. In a surprise attack they had no difficulty killing or disabling a man travelling alone. Female panthers were known to pounce on a victim, using their rear claws to shred his legs, leaving him disabled, defenseless and unable to flee. Sometimes this was to provide a learning experience for her cubs, allowing them to practice pouncing on and, ultimately, killing the victim.

Initially there were so many bears in southwestern Indiana that it was impossible to raise hogs, as the bears would simply carry them off. It was not until around 1815 or 1820 that the bear population had been reduced to the point where raising hogs became practical. Prior to that time the bear was utilized much like a hog, with the meat being salted to make bacon, and bear grease was used like lard. Bear meat was actually preferred over pork, as it required less salt to preserve and had better flavor, and the bear's skin offered greater utility as clothing, a rug or a door covering. But with such desirable traits bears quickly became scarce in southwestern Indiana.

Surprisingly, migratory squirrels were also a recurring threat in the lower Wabash River Valley, as they would travel in immense numbers and do great damage to the corn crop.

The invasions came from Kentucky, where the squirrels would swim across the Ohio River into Illinois and Indiana. To address this menace, in 1834 two groups of men living in Phillipstown, Illinois gathered for the purpose of seeing which team could kill the most squirrels in a single day, saving the scalps as proof of their efforts. The *losing* team counted over 4,000 scalps! And repeating the effort just a few months later, one team's efforts amounted to over 30,000 squirrels. The problem persisted for many years afterward, though eventually the population declined to the point where squirrels were relatively scarce and the mass migrations had stopped.<sup>63</sup>

## ILLNESS

To add to the hardships of life in their newly chosen home, a new disease, milk sickness (also known as "the tires"), was first described in writing in 1809.<sup>64</sup> The primary symptom of the disease was a tired and weary feeling, and death would often follow within a few days. Early pioneers had no idea of the source of this disease, though it was eventually discovered to be caused by the toxins of the White Snakeroot plant. Domestic livestock would generally avoid eating this plant, but with drought or overgrazing it often became necessary for their survival. The toxins would accumulate in their milk, and would thus be passed to humans when it was consumed.

Helen Keusch, a family history researcher, provided the following undated and unsourced account that summarizes milk sickness and other common diseases that plagued early Indiana pioneers:<sup>65</sup>

*"[Abraham] Lincoln's mother died of the milk fever. You got it from drinking the milk of an infected cow. And you didn't know the cow was infected until several days after the cow ate the poisonous snakeroot plant that grew in wooded areas. The cow would often die after a few days. This often happened in droughts when cattle would forage in shaded areas looking for food. And cholera often affected people at certain times in certain areas. In southern Indiana during the 1830-40's, there was a cholera epidemic. And what 'doctors' there were often couldn't distinguish cholera from milk sickness. In Dubois County [Indiana] we have a small family cemetery (Dillon Cholera Graveyard) where the people died [from cholera within a short time span]. Secondly, when young children reached their second summer, they often were affected with 'summer complaint'.<sup>66</sup> It has various names. My mother told me about when she almost died of the complaint. This was when a baby was weaned from the mother (usually at one year) and began drinking cow's milk. The cow's milk was raw milk (not pasteurized) and stored wherever it could be kept cool--like in a well, or spring house. The coolness, of course, was not enough to kill the germs. Older children would have built up immunities to the milk. So when you see little [grave] markers with the*

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<sup>63</sup> *History of White County, Illinois*, pages 20 & 210, Inter-State Publishing Company (1883).

<sup>64</sup> *Milk Sickness*, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milk\\_sickness](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milk_sickness), October, 2011.

<sup>65</sup> *Epidemic Timeline*, Coal County, Oklahoma Genweb, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~okcoal/epidemic.htm>.

<sup>66</sup> Also known as Cholera Infantum, Cholera morbus, weaning brash, and water gripes.

*date [sic: age] of the child being between 1 and 2, they probably died of summer complaint. And that was severe diarrhea and dehydration.”*

In addition, malaria, which was most prevalent along poorly drained river bottoms such as Fox Island (opposite Harmony, Indiana), was found just about everywhere. “Ague fits,” the fever and shaking brought on by malaria, were a common sight. It has been said that in the early 1820s there was more fatal sickness in southern Indiana than has been seen before or since. Bilious or remittent fever – not unlike Yellow Fever and characterized by nausea, vomiting, fever and severe diarrhea – prevailed, though many different diseases were equally as fatal.

On pages 243 and 244 of *An Excursion through the United States and Canada, 1822-23, by an English gentleman* by William Newnham Blaney (1824), we find the following account of the frequency of disease in our ancestor’s neighborhood:

*“The low grounds of the Wabash would be thickly settled, and soon covered with a swarming population; but during a month or two in Autumn, Fevers and Agues seem to stalk about here, seeking who they may destroy. Indeed the countenances of the few settlers bespeak how often they have been attacked by these diseases. Where the ground has been cleared for any considerable space, the sickness does not prevail to such an extent. This is the case with the settlement of Harmony; but even there, the inhabitants had in the autumn suffered a great deal.”*

The early pioneers were greeted with many hardships, but life was good for those who were industrious and fortunate enough to survive. Food and land was plentiful, as were building materials. So a family’s basic needs of food and shelter were easily met.



## CHAPTER 4:

### PROVING RAMSEY'S FAMILY HISTORY

Mr. Ramsey's little 37 page booklet appears to be the "ground zero" family history from which all the other known attempts at documenting Simon William's family have been derived. If we can verify that the bulk of what she had told us about his family is accurate, then we can have a good degree of confidence that what she tells us about all of his children is largely factual. But aside from the fact that she only gives us significant details about *her* direct ancestor (Bennet), her work is also *riddled with factual and clerical errors*, leaving us to sort through things to determine what can be believed and what should be tossed out. Which is the purpose of this section, to see how much of what she wrote about Simon's children can be corroborated by public records.

Chapter 2 already has proven that Enoch and John Williams (the one who married Elizabeth Rook, not John Clark Williams, husband of Ritter Johnson) were Simon's children. The low-hanging fruit for proving Simon's relationship to his remaining children are marriage records, particularly those of Warren County, Kentucky. The extant headstones (especially when coupled with the information from Mrs. Ramsey) found at the family cemetery on Simon's 160 acre patent are the next best source. And finally, the headstones of his children that are buried elsewhere are also helpful in determining the degree of confidence that we can have in Mrs. Ramsey's work. So those are the three things that we'll focus on in this chapter. In particular, we'll examine the family cemetery in detail, since it is such a key piece of evidence for many families with roots in the vicinity of Cynthiana, Indiana, and because one author embellished his record of the cemetery with sources other than the actual headstones found there, creating unwelcome factoids that have further helped to muddy the waters in regard to Simon's family.

## MARRIAGE RECORDS

The records of Kentucky marriages of various extended family members provide some of the best evidence of how several people that we are studying relate to one another. That is because early Kentucky marriages required that, prior to the wedding, a bond be posted between the families involved. And, if the groom or bride were thought to possibly be under 21 years of age, the consent of a parent would also be required. Such consents often provide direct evidence, explicitly stating the relationship of one or more of the parties involved.

### Warren County Marriages

Very clearly, there was considerable interaction in Warren County, Kentucky between the family members of Simon Williams and those of Elder James Martin, Lee Allen and the Harmons prior to their subsequent arrival in the vicinity of Cynthiana, and the presence of Arthur Johnson's family also briefly overlapped Simon's presence there. Specifically, the following marriages involved these families.<sup>67</sup> In the list below, the two marriages in italic type provide direct evidence of Simon's relationship to two of his children – Sarah and William. Direct evidence for a third child, Mary (or Polly), follows after the list:

- On 9 Oct 1801, **John Williams** and **Arthur Johnson** posted the bond for **John's** marriage to "**Riter Johnston.**" **Ed Bradshaw** was a witness.
- On 3 Jun 1805 **Moses Pruitt** and **David Benson** (**Simon's** neighbor in both Kentucky and Indiana) posted bond for **Moses' marriage to Phebe Williams.**
- On 10 Jul 1805 **Lewis Harmon** and **Micajah Harmon** posted bond for Lewis' marriage to **Eleanor Williams.** On the same day, **Micajah Harmon** attested that she was over 21 years of age.
- On 4 Sep 1805 **John Turner** and **Sampson Johnson** posted bond for the intended wedding of **Betsy Johnson** to **John Turner.** Consent was given the same day by her father, **Arthur Johnson.**
1806. ***James Martin** and **Bennet Williams** posted bond for James' marriage to **Sally Williams.** Her father **Simon Williams** gave consent on 12 Dec 1805, with **Lewis Harmon** and **Bennet Williams** as witnesses.*
- On 19 Jul 1806 **Elizabeth Johnson** married **John Langston.** Consent was given by her parents, **Arthur** and **Lucy [Harmon] Johnson,** and witnessed by **John Johnson** and **John Williams.**
- On 16 Jan 1809 **Samuel Casey** and **Sampson Johnson** posted bond for the marriage of **Samuel Casey** and **Nancy Lynch.**

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<sup>67</sup> Specific citations are not given. This information is derived from several sources: *Warren County, Kentucky Marriages, 1797-1851 from the original marriage bonds and consents* by Helen Thomas et al [1970]), *Warren County, Kentucky Marriages 1797 through 1851* by Sandra K. Gorin (1999), Western Kentucky University's Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records, MSS 230*, and various microfilmed marriage and miscellaneous records of Warren County, Kentucky found at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Of these sources, those of WKU are the more detailed and complete.

On 16 Jan 1810 **Lewis Williams** and **Moses Pruitt** posted bond for Lewis' marriage to **Ellender [sic: Elender] Cater**. Her consent was by her mother **Ellender** in Jan 1810 (day not listed), with **Moses Pruitt** and **Israel Davis** [husband of **Elender's** sister, **Elizabeth**] as witnesses.

On 1 Sep 1812 **Simon Williams** posted bond for the marriage of his son **William Williams** to **Martha Allen**. The consent of Martha's father, **Lee Allen**, was dated 26 Aug 1812.

Intentionally omitted from the above list is the marriage of Polly Williams and William Harmon, because the date of their marriage is incorrect as reported in the marriage abstracts of both Helen Thomas et al and Sandra K. Gorin, and in the records of Western Kentucky University's Manuscript and Folklife Archives. The first two sources report that their marriage took place on 24 May 1803, while at WKU they are listed among marriages that took place in 1820.<sup>68</sup>

The following is a transcription of an undated marriage return submitted by Elder James Martin, signifying that he had performed their marriage, as well as that of another couple (an image of the original will be provided shortly):<sup>69</sup>

*"A trew [sic] list of marriage  
Singlar Manson & Rosa Tompson [sic]  
William Harmon & Polly Williams  
(signed) James Martin"*

The Manson marriage took place on 21 Aug 1807, so the Harmon marriage likely took place around the same time.

*This is to certify that I Simon Williams  
have consented to the Marriage between  
his daughter Polly and William  
Harmon given under my hand this  
24<sup>th</sup> Day of May - Simon Williams  
George Williams  
Lewis Harmon*

Simon Williams' Warren County, Kentucky marriage consent for Polly Williams.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>68</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records, MSS 230, Box 7, folder 1, item 18.

<sup>69</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Loose Papers, 1796-1880, T-Z, FHL microfilm #273017.

<sup>70</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Loose Papers, 1796-1880, H-L, FHL microfilm #273015.

Shown above is a copy of Simon's consent, as witnessed by George Williams and Lewis Williams, for Polly Williams to marry William Harmon. It shows that he granted his permission on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, but no year was stated. William Harmon first appears in the tax lists of Warren County, Kentucky in 1808, which would imply that he and Polly were married by then, and you will learn in Chapter 5 that Elder James Martin last appears on the Warren County tax rolls in 1807. Given that he was a farmer/minister, he probably would have moved to Knox County, Indiana Territory during the winter of 1807/1808 in order to start clearing the heavily forested land there so that he could begin planting in the spring to raise the crops needed to sustain his family. Thus there is a reasonable degree of certainty that they married on or shortly after 24 May 1807.

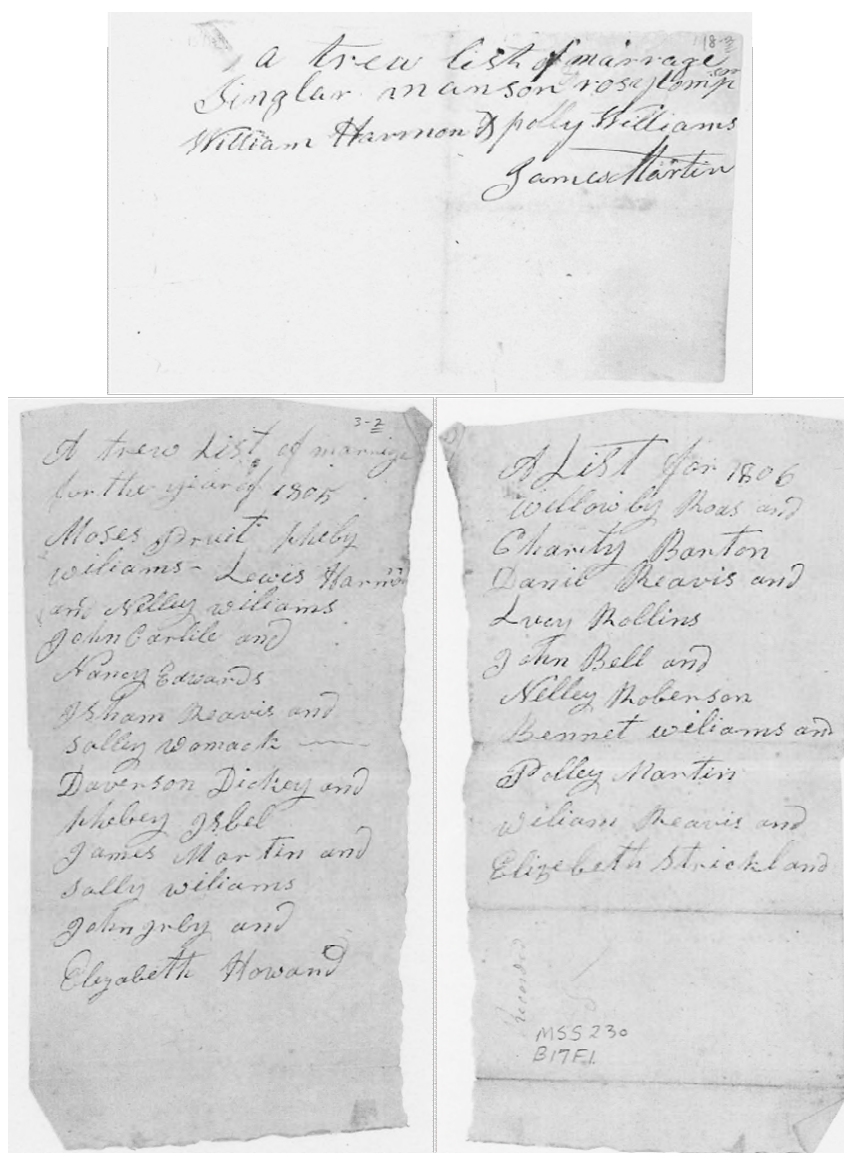
There is no clear record of who had performed the marriages of four of Simon's children: Phebe (Williams) Pruitt, Nelly (Williams) Harmon, Sally (Williams) Martin and Bennet Williams. But all are listed on a sheet of marriage returns that failed to include the minister's name - the first three are listed on the 1805 side of the return, and the last on the 1806 side of the return.<sup>71</sup> Despite the lack of the minister's name on the returns, there are a number of factors that suggest the marriages were very likely performed by Elder James Martin:

1. The 1805 list begins just like the 1807 return submitted by Elder James Martin: "A trew [sic] list of marriage for the year..."
2. The first marriage listed on the 1805 list was for "Moses Pruit Pheby Wiliams." They were married on 3 Jun 1805, the same day that Elder James Martin had been licensed to perform marriages in Warren County, Kentucky (a photocopy of this license is presented later, in Chapter 5). However, the list also includes marriages that were performed as early as January 1805.
3. On both the 1805 and 1806 lists, Williams is always spelled with only a single L, just like the consent for Polly Williams shown above.
4. The author of the Polly Williams consent is not known, but it could not have been Simon Williams, as he always signed his mark. But it appears very likely that it was Elder James Martin. Note that there are two styles of capital W used: A flourished capital W for the first instance of Simon Williams and a simple W elsewhere that looks to be lowercase. The 1807 list uses only the flourished W, while the 1805 and 1806 lists exclusively use the lower case W.
5. The author of all four documents appears to randomly switch between using upper and lower case letters to begin a sentence or proper name.

For comparison, all three lists are shown below. There is considerable similarity in the handwriting, suggesting that all three and the consent for the marriage of Polly Williams were written by one person. That would either be Elder James Martin, or that all four documents were copied by a clerk at the courthouse. The latter seems very unlikely, since there is sufficient variety in handwriting of other documents in the files where these documents were found to suggest they were all photocopies of originals. It would also be odd that a courthouse clerk would make records on such odd scraps of paper:

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<sup>71</sup> Western Kentucky University, Manuscript & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records*, MSS 230, Box17, folder 1, item 3 (2 pages).



Comparison of 1805, 1806 and 1807 marriage returns for Warren County, Kentucky.

Let's recall a couple of facts from Chapter 2: first, Charles Reavis, Micajah Harmon, Lewis Harmon, Elder James Martin and Simon Williams were neighbors who lived on abutting properties, and second, tax records show that Elder James Martin was living on Charles Reavis' land in 1805, 1806 and 1807.

Seven of the twelve 1805/1806 marriages listed above involve the families of Harmon, Martin, Reavis and/or Williams. The three Reavises – Isham, Daniel and William – along with Charles Reavis, Marcurial “Mark” Reavis, and Rebeckah (Reavis) Potter (wife of Royal Potter, on whose land Moses Pruitt had lived) were all children of Isham Reavis, Senior.<sup>72</sup> Marcurial Reavis owned a 400 acre parcel upon which the hamlet of

<sup>72</sup> E-mail from Patricia Banks dated 8 Nov 2014 where she cited the will of Isham Reavis dated 16 Aug 1824, which was submitted for final settlement in Saline County, Missouri on 10 Sep 1829. The will



Halfway is now situated, very near the southern property line of Charles Reavis' property.<sup>73</sup> No doubt Moses Pruitt was living somewhere nearby on the property of Royal Potter.

Since a clear majority of marriages in the above list were for known neighbors of Elder James Martin, it is likely that the others also lived within a fairly close proximity. With these facts, coupled with the handwriting being so consistent among the three above documents, it is difficult to conclude anything other than Elder James Martin had performed all of these marriages.

## **Posey & Gibson County Marriages**

There is one additional marriage of interest in Gibson County, Indiana, and five additional marriages in Posey County, Indiana, though none offers any additional insights into family relationships, with perhaps the exception of the 1817 and 1818 marriages, since they were performed by Elder James Martin:

On 19 Oct 1816 **Anna Williams** married **George W. Johnson**. The service performed by **Rev. John Miller**, Gibson County.

On 17 Oct 1817 **Jemima Williams** married **Joseph Cater**. The service was performed by **Elder James Martin**, Posey County.

On 8 Nov 1818 **John Williams** married **Elizabeth Rook**. The service was performed by **Elder James Martin**, Posey County.

On 28 Jan 1819 **Enoch Williams** married **Lydia Lowe**. The service was performed in Posey County by **Samuel C. Hiron**, Esquire.

On 5 Aug 1819 **George Williams** married **Audra (Journey) Martin**, the widow of **Ralph Martin**. The service was performed by **Elder James Moutray**, Posey County.

On 5 Feb 1824 **Robert Williams** married **Polly Simpson**. The service was performed in Posey County by **Samuel McReynolds**, Esquire.

All of the above noted individuals are found in later Census records for Harmony and Smith Townships in Posey County or Montgomery Township in Gibson County.

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disowns Charles, and does not specifically name Marcurial, Daniel or Isham (who had died in Gibson County, Indiana in 1825). Another of her sources was *History of the Reavis Family* by Winfred Elmo Reavis (1951, typescript).

<sup>73</sup> *Land Grants of Warren/Allen County, Kentucky* by Adrian Jeffers (1997), pages 88, 89 and 164.

## THE FAMILY CEMETERY

An excellent source of indirect evidence of the relatedness of various Williams individuals in the vicinity of Cynthiana is found in the family burial ground located on the northwestern one third of Simon Williams' original patent. This property was deeded to Enoch Williams in 1834 and will be referred to in this book as Simon Williams Family Cemetery. It is important to remember that this was a private cemetery, not a church or public cemetery. As such, there is a clear and close relationship between nearly all of the people laid to rest there, which helps to prove relationships where no more direct proof of a particular relationship is known to exist. The tombstones that have been recorded here, together with the interactions of siblings in various public records, combine to make a very compelling body of evidence that certain individuals were Simon's children.

The cemetery is located on the high point of Simon's former 160-acre patent, near the northwest corner of the property, not far from its western edge. It is just southwest of Cynthiana, about 550 feet south of Rogers Road and 600 feet west of Highway 68. In 2013, the cemetery occupied an uncultivated area of about 65 feet by 90 feet on a site that was actively being farmed. Most of the extant grave markers were located in the northeast quadrant of the cemetery, occupying about 20% of the site (around 1,200 square feet).

A visit to the cemetery in 2013 found that headstones were arranged rather haphazardly, most in rows that were irregular and oddly spaced, and with some rows at right angles to the others. Some stones were erect and fully intact, while many were broken and several were lying on the ground. After surveying the visible stones, eight hidden stone fragments were excavated in a very cursory reconnaissance of the site: a more intensive reconnaissance may uncover additional information. Most visible stones were located in the northeast quadrant of the cemetery in five rows: two rows of stones on the eastern edge of the cemetery running north to south and facing east, and three rows on the northern edge of the cemetery running east to west and facing north. A small percentage of stones were found outside this main area of the cemetery. In total there were thirty eight partial or complete headstones and six footstones that were still extant.

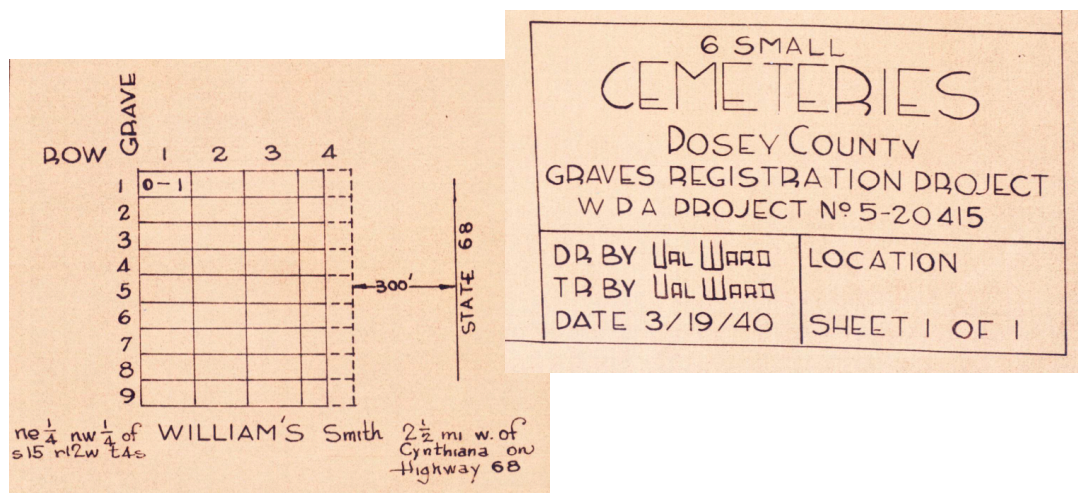
A number of depressions exist in the southwest quadrant of the cemetery, and the adjoining property owner, Celia Norman, stated that these have appeared since the 1990s. She believes these to be indicative of collapsed caskets. No headstones were found in the vicinity of these depressions.

Based upon analysis of extant grave markers at the site, the main period of activity at the cemetery was from 1839 to 1871. But four stones pre-date 1839, and there are believed to be other burials that took place before that time. The oldest date of death noted on an extant stone is 1817. Only one marker has a date of death after 1871: that of Avery Allen in 1896. Avery's wife was interred there in 1852; they and their youngest son John share the same marker. Avery's burial occurred after the property had left family hands in 1888, so he likely had pre-arranged to be buried there with his loved ones.

The sequence of ownership of the property up until it left family hands is as follows:

1. Simon and Anna ( ) Williams, made their initial land entry for the property on 28 Mar 1814.
2. Enoch and Lydia (Lowe) Williams, owned the property from 2 Jul 1834 until Enoch's death on 2 Sep 1843,<sup>74</sup>
3. The widow Lydia (Lowe) Williams continued to own the property from the time of her husband's death until the last of the interests in the property from Enoch's estate was sold on 27 Dec 1853.<sup>75</sup>
4. Enoch's son Henry Harrison Williams acquired interest in the property from his siblings, owning it from 27 Dec 1853 until 21 Jan 1865,<sup>76</sup>
5. Alfred and Lucinda (Williams) McReynolds, the sister and brother-in-law of Henry Harrison Williams, owned the property from 21 Jan 1865 until Alfred's death on 15 Nov 1877,
6. The widow Lucinda (Williams) McReynolds owned the property from 15 Nov 1877 to 2 Mar 1888, when she sold the property to Lucien B. Cosby, who is not known to be related to any descendant of Simon Williams.<sup>77</sup>

Except for the grave of Avery Allen, evidence of interments there stops about six years after Alfred McReynolds took possession of the property.



The first known public record of the cemetery occurs on 19 Mar 1940, when it was documented as part of the Works Progress Administration's Graves Registration Project.<sup>78</sup> What is interesting here is that the cemetery bears no resemblance to the existing cemetery, and it is shown above to have been located about 300 feet closer to Highway 68 than is currently the case (it appears unlikely that there was ever a

<sup>74</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G, page 82.

<sup>75</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book V, page 30, who acquired it from the heirs of Enoch Williams.

<sup>76</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book 2, page 244.

<sup>77</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book 25, page 449.

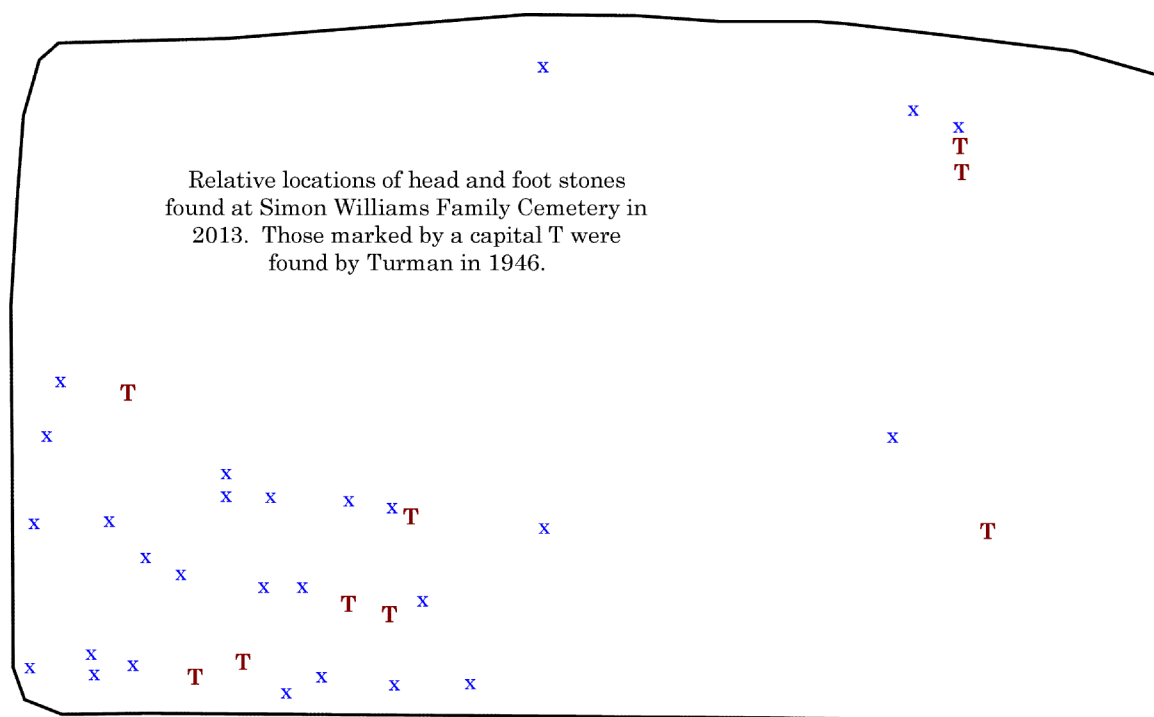
<sup>78</sup> The plan has the location of the cemetery in the incorrect section – Section 15 was the patent for George and Bennet Williams, and was a mile further west of Highway 68. It should say Section 14, which is where the cemetery is actually located.

significant realignment of Highway 68 that would explain this discrepancy). Note that at the time it was called William's Cemetery.

However, at around the same time (possibly a few years earlier), there was a W. P. A. veteran's grave registration project underway in the county, and the name used for the cemetery recorded for the Civil War grave of Enoch Williams (b. 1838, d. 1862, who is interred at Simon Williams Family Cemetery), was Cosby Cemetery (after the name of the property's owner at that time).<sup>79</sup>

In 1946 Robert E. Turman surveyed the cemetery, finding only twelve extant grave markers. He called the site Old Williams Cemetery, in order to differentiate it from Williams Private Graveyard in Johnson Township, Gibson County, Indiana. The earliest burial noted in his survey occurred in 1842, well after Simon had sold the property to his son Enoch.

The map below shows the relative locations of extant stones noted by Turman (designated by a bold **T**) and those noted by the author (designated by an x):



Not to scale. The bottom of the map is to the north.

But by 1979 Carroll O. Cox had recorded finding evidence of at least forty one burials at the cemetery (which is more than are shown on the map above), though in addition to extant headstones, his survey included undocumented sources. So it is *unclear* how much of the information he provided was based upon direct evidence, though a later

<sup>79</sup> E-mail from Dan Elliott dated 21 Nov 2004.

analysis will narrow down the list of graves that he likely had derived from other sources. Mr. Cox chose to call the site Cater Cemetery.

It is clear that some degree of restoration of the cemetery had taken place in the past: first, there are far more headstones now than were recorded in the initial survey of 1946; and second, evidence suggests that a number of stones had been reset in concrete. Hopefully no stones were imported from elsewhere, but without any known record of the cemetery's restoration that remains a possibility. However, there appears to be a close relationship between all the individuals interred there, so that possibility is likely rather small. After all, even small headstones can be exceptionally heavy to move and transport without proper equipment.

The present arrangement of grave markers suggests that the property was likely overgrown with weeds and brambles at Turman's visit and that subsequent to (or concurrent with) the survey of the Coxes, many stones were recovered and possibly moved to the northeast corner of the cemetery site.

In 2004, the Indiana Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology had a student from Ball State University survey the site, which is listed in their *State Historic Architectural and Archaeological Research Database* as site SHAARD-65-110 (IHSSI # 129-146-00004). The database contains very minimal information; it notes that there were 55 stones present (headstones and footstones), but did not itemize individual stones. The large number of stones is thought to be due to each fragment of a broken headstone being counted as a single stone, and because blank stone fragments (of which there were several found in a 2013 site visit) were also counted.



## The Turman Survey

In 1946 Robert E. Turman recorded only twelve extant gravestones at the family cemetery on Simon Williams' 160 acre patent, noting them on pages 14 & 18 of his book, *Cemetery Records of Southern Indiana* (undated [1946]).<sup>80</sup> Information enclosed in square brackets has been added for clarity:

Page 14:

*"Old WILLIAMS Cemetery one mile west of Cynthiana, Ind. on top of hill"*

*"Nancy [Lowe], wife of Andrew Cavett, b. 11.5.1788; d. 7.11.1854; age 65.8.6 [65 yrs, 8 mos, 6 das].*

*"Winfield Scott Derling, b. 4.17.1819 [1849]; d. 7.13.1855.*

*"Nancy C. Cater, b. 9.9.1828; d. 11.21.1863.*

*"Greenberry Cater, b. 6.20.1825; d. \_\_\_\_\_.*

*"Jemima [Williams] Cater, d. 27 Jun 1864."*

Page 18:

*"WILLIAMS (Old) Cemetery west of Cynthiana, Ind. 1 mile.*

*"T. R. Cater, Co. M, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ky. Cav. (No other data)*

*"Simon Harmon, d. 5.17.1842, age 35 years.*

*"George Williams, b. 5.15.1784; d. 5.8.1849, age 65 years.*

*"Enoch Williams, d. 9/2/1843, age about 49 years."*

*"Ordra E. Malone, dau of A [Absalom] & P [Permelia (Williams)] Malone, 1853-54.*

*"Avery Allen, b. 8.18.1802; d. 1.13.1896.*

*"Elizabeth, his wife, b. May 1802; d. 2.5.1852. (Lowe)"*

Why Mr. Turman chose to split this cemetery on to two separate pages of his booklet is unknown, but perhaps it was simply that he had given his manuscript notes to someone to be typed up and the pages were out of order, and what was intended to be one section became two. Markers for all but three of the graves noted above are currently found at the Simon Williams Family Cemetery. The three stones that are no longer extant are those of: Nancy Cavett (though a footstone likely survives), Winfield Scott Derling and Simon Harmon.

As shown earlier, when the above list of twelve graves is compared against the grave locations as currently found at the site, virtually none of the graves is found in close proximity to the others (the exception being those of Avery and Elizabeth [Lowe] Allen, who share a monument with their son, Dr. John Allen [whose grave was not recorded by

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<sup>80</sup> A 1977 update to this manuscript was undertaken by Madge Yeager Olson. It states that the original was completed in 1946. No additional listings for Old Williams Cemetery are given, and her edits to the listings for this cemetery were minor. But she did combine all twelve of the above graves under a single listing for Old Williams Cemetery, which is found on page 16 of her version.

Turman]). The nine extant headstones from Turman's survey are scattered amongst the few dozen stones currently found at the site, as shown in the earlier sketch.

Of the people that Turman listed, you will later learn that:

1. Nancy C., T. R. and Greenberry Cater were children of Joseph Cater. Jemima [Williams] Cater was his wife.
2. Nancy [Lowe] Cavett, Lydia (Lowe) Williams and Elizabeth [Lowe] Allen (wife of Avery Allen) were daughters of William Lowe.
3. Enoch Williams was the husband of Lydia (Lowe) Williams.
4. Simon Harmon was the son of William and Polly (Williams) Harmon.
5. George Williams was the husband of Audra (Journey) Martin Williams.
6. Ordra Malone was the granddaughter of Lewis and Elender (Cater) Williams.

Thus you have George and Enoch Williams buried in the same family cemetery as Jemima (Williams) Cater, the son of Polly (Williams) Harmon and the granddaughter of Lewis Williams. This certainly helps to corroborate Mrs. Ramsey's family history that these five individuals were Simon's children.

The one mystery in Turman's Old Williams Cemetery was the grave of Winfield Scott Derling, who was said to have been born in 1819. The only match in Census records is for a "Winfield S. Durlin," b. 1848, who is found in the 1850 Census for Lynn Township, Posey County; so the year of birth was likely mistranscribed by Turman. He was the son of Andrew (b. 1809 in Pennsylvania) and Sarah J. [Cavett] Derling (b. 1824 in Indiana). Sarah J. Cavett was the daughter of Andrew Cavett and Nancy Lowe, so he was likely buried in the cemetery because Enoch Williams' wife was Nancy (Lowe) Cavett's sister.

## The Cox Survey

A few decades later the cemetery was described as Cater Cemetery in Carroll O. Cox's book, *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* (1979). It includes all but three of the people listed by Turman: it lacks Nancy Cavett (wife of Andrew), Winfield Scott Derling (Andrew Cavett's grandson), and Ordra Malone.<sup>81</sup> Cox lists more than forty-one graves, plus he also notes the four Smith Township graves of Simon Williams and his wife, and John and Ritter (Johnson) Williams, who supposedly were all buried together. This information is included because, if it is factual, then Simon Williams' 160 acre patent is the most logical place in Smith Township for them to be buried. These four grave listings will be examined more closely on the next page.

Carroll Cox began the research for his book in 1949, and it is clear that he relied upon information other than the tombstones he found at the cemetery. At the beginning of the book he tells us:

***“Many people have told us who they thought were [sic: was] buried in certain graveyards but unless reasonable proof was given they have been omitted.”***

It also appears that he added people who were mentioned as parents on their child's tombstone, even though in at least one case the parent was known to be interred elsewhere. So the Cox account, while of some value, is not completely accurate and may contain a few red herrings.

It is appropriate that he called this graveyard Cater Cemetery, as the first extant interment there was for Mary C. Cater, who died 20 Sep 1817 at 12 weeks of age.<sup>82</sup> The second interment was for William Lewis Cater, who was born 15 Apr 1832 and died 3 Aug 1832. Also buried there are the siblings Elender (Cater) Williams (wife of Lewis Williams), Joseph Cater (husband of Jemima Williams), as well as several other Caters.

However, Census and land records show that the Caters all had lived near Lewis Williams' farm in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County (about three miles away) from at least 1830 on. So it is clear that at their death all but one of the individuals named in the preceding paragraph were transported from that vicinity to Simon Williams Family Cemetery, seemingly in order to be buried with other family members. While Lewis Williams had at times owned properties that were nearer to Simon's patent, with the exception of the 1840 Census he had lived on his property in Armstrong Township (in the 1830s he purchased a property abutting those of George, Bennet and Enoch, which is where he was living in 1840). This further reinforces the notion that this is where Simon and Anna are buried; related family members chose not to be interred in cemeteries closer to where they were living when a family death occurred (the notable exception being Bennet Williams, who together with several of his family members, was buried about a half mile to the west on a portion of the land that he and George Williams had patented).

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<sup>81</sup> Cox notes under a grouping of Malone graves, “One stone, May 15, 1854.” This may be Ordra Malone, 1853-1854, as noted by Turman.

<sup>82</sup> This was the daughter of Elender (Cater) Williams' brother, William.

### John Clark Williams

Before moving on, it is necessary to address a couple of other bits of information of importance to us. As just mentioned, Carroll Cox has supposedly provided us with information about where four additional persons are buried: 1) Simon Williams, 2) Simon's wife, 3 John Williams and 4), his wife Ritter. This should be gleeful news, as having proof of Simon's burial would be a key piece of evidence. But we need to closely examine and analyze what he has told us in his book.<sup>83</sup> On page 67, in the section for Smith Township he wrote:

*"WILLIAMS GRAVEYARD*

*"WILLIAMS*

*"Simon, ----*

*"Polly Ann, ----*

*"Mention made in a deed to his son, John Williams.*

*"John and Heneritta Johnson Williama [sic]"*

The statement "Mention made in a deed to his son, John Williams" is poorly phrased. Was mention of the cemetery found in the deed, or was mention of Simon's relationship to John mentioned? It turns out that it doesn't matter what was intended, because neither statement is supported by facts. No such information is found in any of the three deeds where Simon sold his 160 acre patent, and these were the only deeds that Simon made in Posey County, Indiana. Thus this has the smell of a red herring, which is often a good sign that somebody has fabricated information, or at the very least come to a very faulty conclusion. But the above clearly suggests that someone thought that Simon and John Clark Williams and their wives were all buried together on Simon's property. Even though John Clark Williams was not Simon's son, he quite possibly was a relative of some sort, so it is possible they were buried in the same cemetery. The trouble is this and another similar entry in the book gives the clear impression that they were father and son.

A deed involving a John Williams that calls out a family graveyard does exist, and may be the source of the information *inferred* above; the deed involved the John Williams to whom Simon Williams had deeded two thirds of his 160 acre patent. But this wasn't Simon's property, it was the 1829 gift property that John Williams had received from Joseph and Margaret (?) Rook Price (that occupied the eastern portion of Margaret Rook's original patent). The deed conveyed the property from John Williams to his daughter Matilda, and it called out a graveyard as being located north of Stillwell Road at the point where it curves more than 90 degrees and bears south-southeast towards Old Evansville Road. This is the location of Callahan Cemetery, where his mother-in-law and stepfather are buried (Cox calls the cemetery Carnahan Cemetery – there is no record of any Williams being interred there). So it wasn't that John was buried with *his* parents, but is more likely where John's wife was buried with *her* parents. It is easy to imagine how this fact could be mangled as it passed from person to person, eventually becoming the factoid published by Mr. Cox.

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<sup>83</sup> *Posey County [Indiana] Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carroll O. Cox (1979), page numbers as noted.

On page 243 of the same book, in the section for Robb Township is found:

*“CEMETERY TO THE RIGHT OF INTERSECTION OF 68 AND I-64*

*“There are no stones and no dates.*

*“It contains the following:*

*“WILLIAMS*

*“Simon,*

*“Phebe Ann, his wife,*

*“WILLIAMS*

*“John, their son*

*“Heneritte Johnson, his wife.”*

Clearly, these are the same individuals described in the Smith Township burial, though the actual distance between the two sites is less than three miles. The property in question above was never owned by either Simon William or John Clark Williams – the original owner was John Clark Williams’ namesake son, though for a *very* brief period of time John Clark Williams had owned an abutting parcel of land. It is interesting that this entry implies that John’s headstone stated he was Simon’s son, *which is pretty much unheard of for an adult that outlives their parent*, but being fairly common for children that don’t reach adulthood. While it *may not* have been the Coxes that created these red herrings, by publishing the information they gave these factoids a degree of credibility that neither deserves. Of course John Clark Williams’ son married Elizabeth Creek (one of the three possible John and Elizabeth Williams who could have been the recipient of part of Simon Williams’ land), which is likely the main factor that led to the genesis of this particular red herring.

Both factoids appear to lack any factual basis, and for that reason this information has no value to our investigation. It is included in the composite cemetery listing that follows later, but it and other unverified information will be clearly labeled as such, so that it is possible to distinguish fact from factoid.

In *Volume 2, Addendum 4* is a detailed assessment of the family of John and Ritter (Johnson) Williams, showing that no direct evidence supports the notion that Simon was his father. The fact that Ritter was the sister of the spouses of two of Simon Williams’ children is the only information that even points in that direction, and her marriage occurred at least a few years before Arthur Johnson and Simon Williams are known to have been in the same county at the same time.



## The Author's Survey

On 14 and 15 Apr 2013, the author visited the cemetery located on Simon Williams' patent. The visit was serendipitous, as the surrounding crop fields were dry, the previous season's crop stubble had just been burned off, and the graveyard, which is maintained only twice per year, had just been mowed. A neighboring property owner, Celia Norman, allowed access across her property to the graveyard and assisted by loaning a shovel, which allowed me to probe for buried stones. She stated that the owner, who lived across the main highway to the east, did not object to people visiting the site.

I learned belatedly that Indiana state law requires that, prior to commencing work in a grave yard, a plan must be submitted to the Indiana Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology in Indianapolis. However, there are no state laws that specify how to preserve cemeteries and/or gravestones. It appears that the intent of the law is simply to encourage people to use best practices in cemetery restoration, to insure that no stones are removed or damaged, and to document any changes to the site. Adding that step would have made it impossible to survey the cemetery at that time, and the intent here was merely to uncover and read shallow stones, not to relocate them. The following is a list of these uncovered stones, which were left where they were found in the field:

1. "wife of / James Cater / Died 1835 / AGED / about 78 years."<sup>84</sup>
2. "LYDIA / wife of / ENOCH WILLIAMS / BORN."
3. "who departe... / LIFE /Jan 22 A. D. 18... /Aged 33 years / 8 ms 11 ds."
4. "Apr. 6, 1852 / Aged 8 m 6 ds."
5. "Lavinia [last name unreadable]."

Stones 1, 2 and 5 were laid flat and were not visible. They were located under a few inches of soil by probing most of the area of the cemetery with a shovel, and the grass and topsoil was cleared away to expose the stones. None of the information found on the above fragments match information noted for intact headstones that had been documented in the Turman or Cox surveys, so these are new finds.

There were also several footstones found at the site (not buried) that included only initials. Except where noted, matching headstones were also found:

1. IE – Isabella Eaton.
2. LW – Probably Lewis Williams (found beside his headstone), or possibly Lydia (Lowe) Williams.
3. NCC – Nancy C. Cater (no headstone found for her).
4. SAC – Samuel Asbury Cater.
5. ?V - Either Green Vickers or Elizabeth Caroline (Cater) Vickers.

*(In Nov 2014 Dan Elliott made an initial survey of this site, confirming most of the above information. His results are posted at [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inposey2/cemeteries/Williams\\_Simon.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inposey2/cemeteries/Williams_Simon.html). A follow-up survey was planned after the publication of this book.)*

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<sup>84</sup> This stone had also been discovered by Gloria Hope (Montgomery) Cox at some point after the publication of *Posey County Cemetery Records*, as it is noted in an undated typescript of a Cox family history found in The *Cox Collection* at Willard Library in Evansville, Indiana.

## Comparison of Surveys

The Cox survey includes information of unknown origin. Comparing his survey against those of Turman and the author has highlighted where he appears to have introduced unsourced information into his listing. Documentary evidence of the survey conducted by the author can be found at [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) for those memorials for Simon Williams Family Cemetery that include a photo (note that the cemetery listing includes memorials not created or documented by the author, which may or may not be accurate, as no documentary proof is associated with those memorials).

Only two stones of the Turman survey were not documented in the other surveys: Nancy Cavett and Winfield Scott Derling. It is interesting that the Cox survey included Andrew Cavett, husband of Nancy and grandfather of Winfield, while Turman noted those two but not Andrew. It seems Mr. Cox may have inferred that Andrew was buried there based upon the graves of his wife and grandson, but then forgot to list them as well.

The Cox survey shows eleven graves not found by either Turman or Malone. These would appear to have been derived from Mr. Cox's uncited sources. Six of these were daughters or granddaughters of Lewis Williams, suggesting some sort of bible record of that family was in existence during their research in the 1970s or earlier. These eleven records are struck through in the table that follows, since there is no direct evidence that these graves ever existed at the family cemetery.

Since the Malone survey found buried stones not listed in the two earlier surveys, and since there is evidence of unmarked graves at the site, it is fairly probable that additional buried stones exist there. If so, they are likely buried more than a few inches below ground, and there could be other stones obscured by the brush pile or by a small pile of monument bases found on the site. It is also possible that additional headstones are buried under existing, relocated headstones.

The listing on the following pages is a compilation and comparison of all three surveys. It provides the name, date of birth, date of death as recorded on the monuments, plus the relationship to Simon Williams and which of the three surveys list each entry. Dates that have been calculated from the age given on a particular stone are shown in square brackets [ ], as are inferred names. Maiden names have been added in parentheses ( ) to aid in understanding relationships amongst the listed individuals.

A plot map is provided after the table (keyed to the entries therein), which shows the locations of most of the extant stones at the cemetery. Following the map are three charts that show how those interred at Simon Williams Family Cemetery directly relate to one of three men: Simon Williams, William Lowe and James Cater. Nearly three quarters of the extant stones trace directly back to these individuals. Those not included in the charts are mostly in-laws of one sort or another.

<b>Table 3.01 – Comparison of Cox, Turman and Malone Surveys of Simon Williams Cemetery</b> <i>Records that have been <b>struck through</b> were inferred by the Coxes – no direct evidence of these graves is known to exist.</i>					
	Name	Born	Died	Relationship to Simon Williams	Survey <sup>85</sup>
1	Allen, Avery	18 Aug 1802	13 Jan 1896	In-law of his sons, Enoch & William.	C, T, M
2	Allen, Elizabeth (Lowe)	Mar 1802	5 Feb 1852	In-law of his sons, Enoch & William.	C, T, M
3	Allen, John (Dr)			In-law of his sons, Enoch & William.	C, M
4	Allen, Leander <i>and his two infants</i> <sup>86</sup>		16 May 1856	In-law of his son, William.	C, M
5	[Cater], Ellender (unknown)	[1757]	1835	Daughter-in-law's mother.	M
6	Cater, Greenberry	29 Jun 1825	14 Jan 1863	Grandson	C, T, M
7	Cater, Jemima (Williams)		27 Jun 1864	Daughter	C, T, M
8	Cater, Joseph	[7 Nov 1795]	11 Dec 1859	Son-in-law	C, M
9	Cater, Mary C.	[6 Sep 1817]	20 Sep 1817	His son-in-law's niece.	C, M
10	Cater, Nancy C. <sup>87</sup>			Granddaughter	T, M
11	Cater, Samuel A.	22 Feb 1840	11 May 1861	Grandson	C, M
12	Cater, T R, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ky Cav			Grandson	C, T, M
13	Cater, William Lewis	15 Apr 1832	3 Aug 1832	Grandson	C, M
14	<del>Cavett, Andrew</del>		<del>27 Feb 1858</del>	<del>In-law of his son, Enoch.</del>	€
15	Cavett, Nancy (Lowe)	5 Nov 1788	11 Jul 1854	In-law of his son, Enoch.	T
16	Derling, Winfield Scott	17 Apr 1849	13 Jul 1855	Son's grandnephew.	T
17	Eaton, Isabella (Ross)	1787		Wife of granddaughter's father-in-law.	M
18	[Eaton], Mary J.	20 Jan	20 Feb 1857	Granddaughter's niece.	C, M
19	Eaton, Thomas	1790	27 May 1839	Granddaughter's father-in-law.	C, M
20	[Eaton], William A.	15 Feb 1858	2 Jan 1861	Granddaughter's nephew.	C, M
21	Harmon, Simon	1807	17 Aug 1847	Grandson	C, T

<sup>85</sup> C = Cox Survey, T = Turman Survey, M = Malone Survey. Photos of all stones found in the Malone survey can be found on *Find A Grave*, however (M) denotes that no photo was taken.

<sup>86</sup> Cox transcribed his first name as "Linander."

<sup>87</sup> The only evidence found for this grave in the Malone Survey was a footstone inscribed "NCC."

**Table 3.01 – Comparison of Cox, Turman and Malone Surveys of Simon Williams Cemetery**

*Records that have been **struck through** were inferred by the Coxes – no direct evidence of these graves is known to exist.*

	Name	Born	Died	Relationship to Simon Williams	Survey <sup>85</sup>
22	Knowles, Arelna	31 Dec 1864	23 Jul 1865	Great granddaughter	C, M
23	Knowles, John W.	3 May 1839	19 Feb 1870	His son William's son-in-law.	C, M
24	Knowles, Lee Hiram	10 Aug 1869	2 Jan 1870	Great grandson.	C, M
25	<del>Knowles, Lyddie (Allen)<sup>88</sup></del>			<del>Probably a great granddaughter.</del>	<del>C</del>
26	<del>Malone, Eleanor</del>			<del>Great granddaughter</del>	<del>C</del>
27	<del>Malone, Laura</del>	<del>16 Sep 1851</del>	<del>1 Sep 1853</del>	<del>Great granddaughter</del>	<del>C</del>
28	Malone, Levnia M. <sup>89</sup>	8 Nov 1848	6 Apr 1849	Great granddaughter	C, M
29	Malone, Louisa	22 Oct 1849	21 Oct 1850	Great granddaughter	C, M
30	<del>Malone, Lucinda (Williams)</del>	<del>15 Jun 1820</del>	<del>15 Jan 1841</del>	<del>Sister in law of a granddaughter.</del>	<del>C</del>
31	Malone, Mary Lucinda	27 Jul 1855	28 Aug 1855	Great granddaughter	M
32	Malone, Ordra E. <sup>90</sup>	1853	1854	Great granddaughter	T, M
33	Meadows, Matilda		22 Feb 1822	In-law of his sons, Enoch & William.	C, M
34	Sharp, Franklin	20 Jun 1830 <sup>91</sup>	5 Aug 1867	In-law of a grandson.	C, M
35	Vickers, Elizabeth Caroline (Cater)	14 Aug 1860 <sup>92</sup>	9 Sep 1888 <sup>93</sup>	Granddaughter	C, M
36	Vickers, Green E.	[14 Jan 1856]	2 Aug 1858 <sup>94</sup>	Great grandson	C, M
37	Williams, Elder Lewis	19 May 1789	7 Aug 1864	Son	C, M
38	[Williams,] Elender (Cater)		29 May 1870	Daughter-in-law	C, M

<sup>88</sup> It is doubtful that this was a separate stone, but more likely she was added because her name was on the stone of her son, Lee Hiram Knowles. In fact, the headstone for Lydia (Allen) Knowles Barnett is found at Liberty Cemetery on the opposite side of Cynthia. Find A Grave, memorial #96488525.

<sup>89</sup> "Levniam" in Cox Survey.

<sup>90</sup> This is likely the Cox Survey listing of "One Stone," which was included in a grouping of Malone headstones.

<sup>91</sup> It is likely that this year of birth was mistranscribed and should be 1838 (possibly 1839).

<sup>92</sup> Per the 1850 and 1860 Census, her year of birth was 1830. The fragment of this stone found in the Malone survey contained no dates.

<sup>93</sup> This is likely a mistranscription and should be 1868: no Census record for 1870 or 1880 could be located.

<sup>94</sup> Aged 2y 6m 19d.

**Table 3.01 – Comparison of Cox, Turman and Malone Surveys of Simon Williams Cemetery**

*Records that have been struck through were inferred by the Coxes – no direct evidence of these graves is known to exist.*

	Name	Born	Died	Relationship to Simon Williams	Survey <sup>85</sup>
39	Williams, Enoch			Grandson	C, M
40	Williams, Enoch	[1794]	2 Sep 1843	Son	C, T, M
41	Williams, George	15 May 1784	8 Mar 1849	Son	C, T, M
42	<del>Williams, Heneritta (Johnson)</del>			<del>Daughter in law</del>	€
43	<del>Williams, Jessie A.</del>	<del>2 Jul 1849</del>	<del>29 Aug 1850</del>	<del>Grandson</del>	€
44	<del>Williams, John</del>			<del>Son</del>	€
45	Williams, Lydia (Lowe)			Daughter-in-law	M
46	Williams, Martha J.	17 Oct 1822	24 Dec 1846	Granddaughter	C, M
47	<del>Williams, Polly Anna (unknown)</del>			<del>Wife</del>	€
48	<del>Williams, Sarah</del>	<del>9 Mar 1818</del>		<del>Granddaughter</del>	€
49	<del>Williams, Simon</del>			<del>Himself</del>	€
50	Unknown	[1851]	6 Apr 1852 <sup>95</sup>	Unknown relation	M
51	Unknown	[12 May 18??]	22 Jan 18?? <sup>96</sup>	Unknown relation	M
52	Unknown	16 Mar 1854		Unknown relation	M
53	Unknown		22 Oct 18??	Unknown relation	M
54	Unknown, Lavinia			Wife of Grandson?	(M)

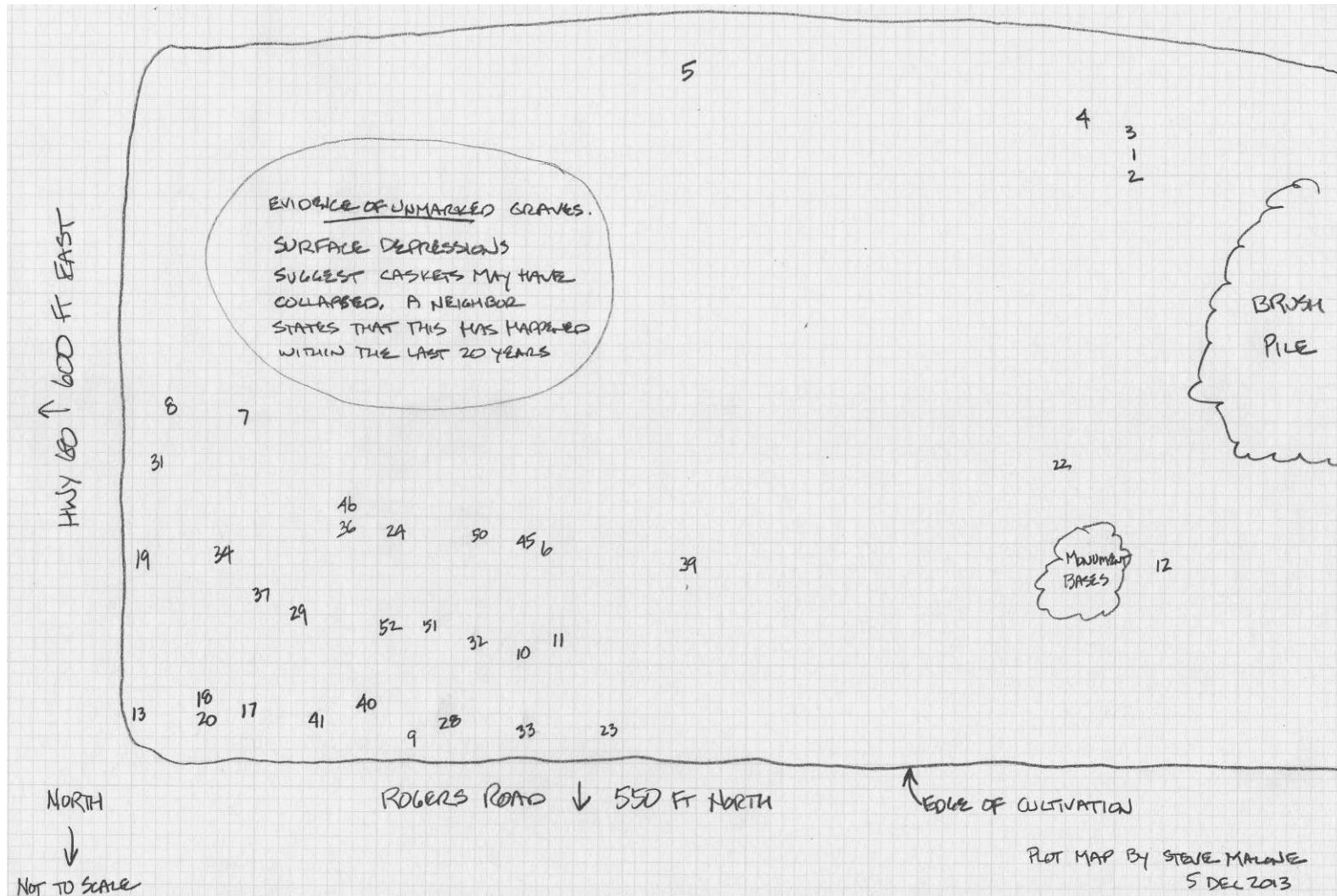
One additional burial may also have been performed at the Simon Williams Family Cemetery. Per Richard A. Prewitt on page 20 of *Moses Pruitt, Sr. & Rachel: Their Descendants* (1997): "Moses B. Pruitt died in Armstrong Twp., Vanderburgh Co., IN on April 6, 1839, and was buried at the old farm outside Cynthiana, Indiana." That would seem to describe where this cemetery is located. He certainly died at the height of the cemetery's use, so in that respect the account is credible. And while none of his other family members are known to have been interred there, most of their deaths occurred after the cemetery land had passed from family hands.

<sup>95</sup> Aged 8 m 6 ds.

<sup>96</sup> Aged 33y 8m 11d.



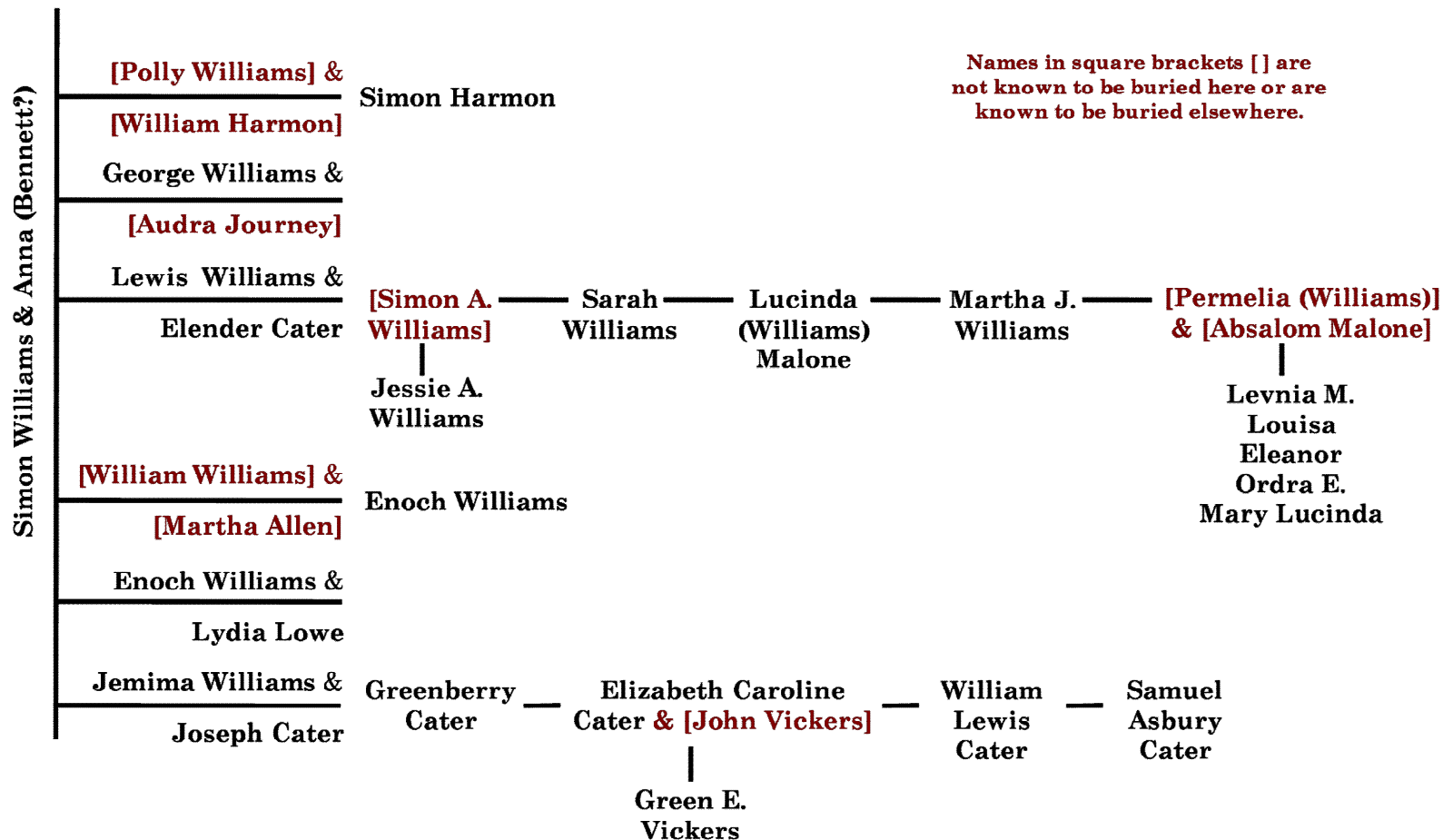
## Cemetery Map: Grave Locations



Map of monument locations based upon numbering in the preceding table.

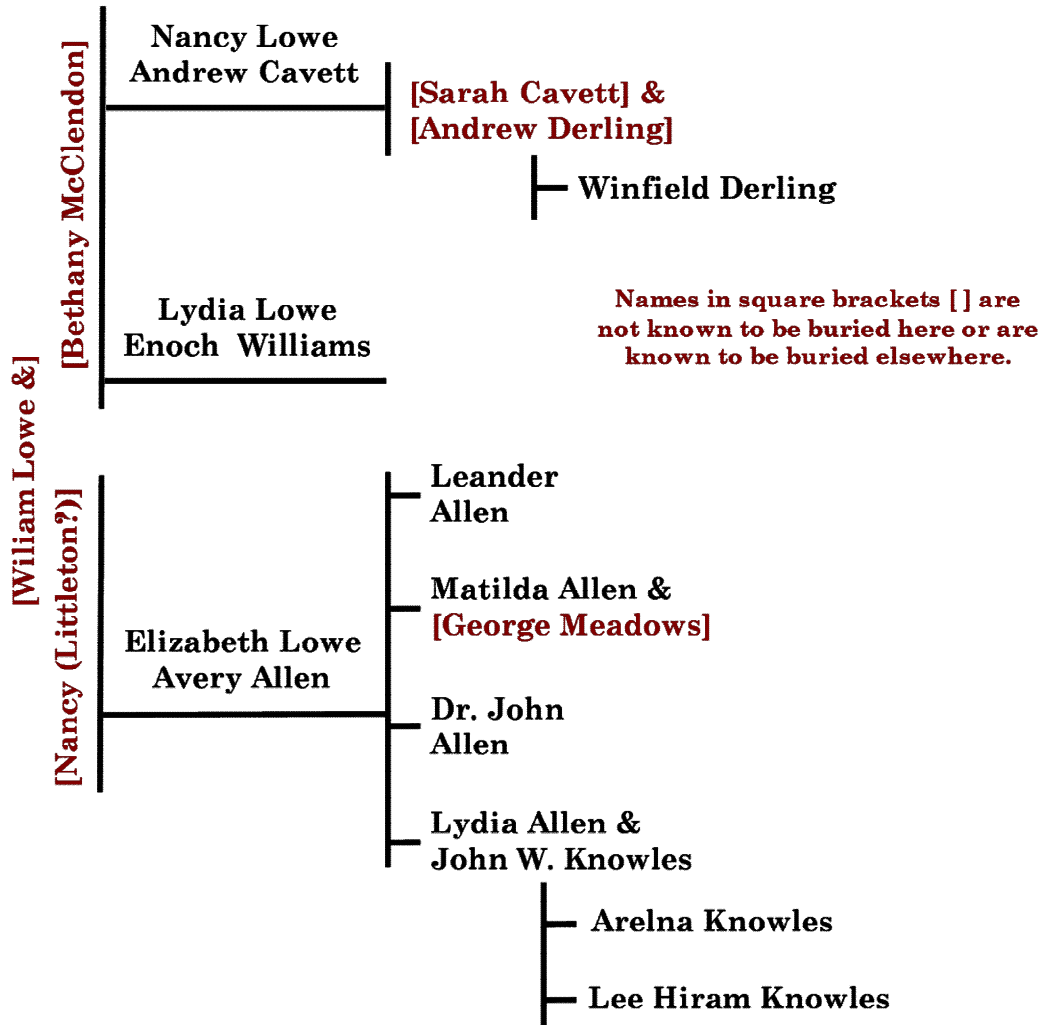
## SIMON WILLIAMS FAMILY CEMETERY

### GRAVES OF DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF SIMON WILLIAMS



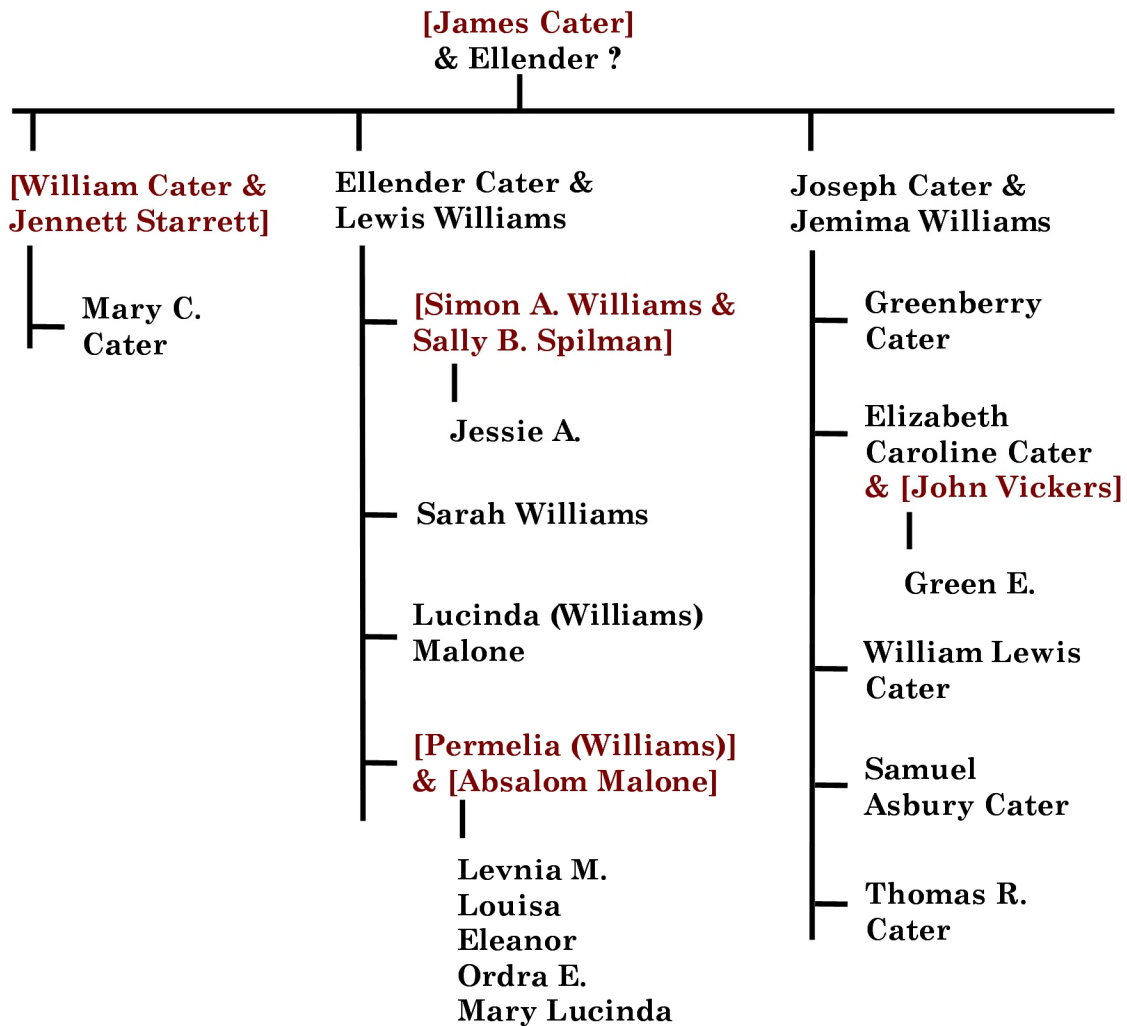
# **SIMON WILLIAMS FAMILY CEMETERY**

## **GRAVES OF DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM LOWE**



# SIMON WILLIAMS FAMILY CEMETERY

## GRAVES OF DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF JAMES CATER



Names in square brackets [ ] are not known to be  
buried here or are known to be buried elsewhere.

## Other Cemeteries

Considerable research had gone into this book before it evolved into its current state. The result is that the locations of the headstones for two other children of Simon's are also known.

The first is for Sally (Williams) Martin Steel, widow of James Martin, Junior. She is buried at Fitzgerrell Cemetery near Ina, Jefferson County, Illinois. Her monument states that she was born 25 Feb 1787 and died on 18 Sep 1857, and her name is given on the monument as Sarah Martin. Thus she was exactly one year older than Mrs. Ramsey had written, but there is no doubt this is the correct person, as will be explained in detail in a section of Chapter 6.

The next is Bennet Williams, who is interred on a property that he had formerly owned, which the Coxes dubbed "Williams Cemetery on Charles Pfister Farm on Hwy 68 Between Poseyville and Cynthiana." Actually, it is located a couple of miles east of Cynthiana. His name is shown as Bennet (only a single T) Williams, and the stone records that he was born on 2 Mar 1782 and died on 24 Jul 1837. That matches exactly with what we were told by Mrs. Ramsey.



## SUMMARY

Based solely upon the extant headstones found by the author at the family cemetery, the following four children as found on Mrs. Ramsey's list were laid to rest there:

1. Jemima (Williams), plus also her husband, Joseph Cater.
2. Elder Lewis Williams, plus also his wife, Elender (Cater) Williams.
3. Enoch Williams, plus also his wife, Lydia (Lowe) Williams.
4. George Williams.

Additional public records will be reviewed later to corroborate these relationships, but for now, it appears we are well on our way toward identifying most of Simon's children: a total of nine out of fourteen have been identified thus far, based upon:

1. Mrs. Ramsey's lineage (Bennet),
2. Two via records from the sale of Simon's patent (John and Enoch),
3. Three via marriage records (Sarah, Polly and William) and
4. Six via cemetery records (Jemima, Lewis, Enoch, George, Sarah and Bennet).

## Francis = Enoch?

Nobody seems to believe that Mrs. Ramsey was correct in her assertion that Simon Williams had a son named Francis (presuming that the masculine spelling is accurate – if it were spelled Frances a daughter would be implied). Most everyone seems to think she made a mistake and that she had meant Enoch.

The omission of Enoch was clearly a mistake, but it seems more likely to have been an error of omission (that Simon actually had fifteen children), rather than simply an error in the name. Enoch's headstone states that he died on 2 Sep 1843 "AGE about 49" (thus born about 1794), while Francis was born on 3 Jan 1797. It seems odd that she would have been wrong about both the name *and* the year of birth.

## Which John Williams?

The analysis in Chapter 2 of the sale of Simon's patent shows that it was *not* John Clark Williams who was his son, but John Williams, husband of Elizabeth Rook. That explains part of the confusion among the various family histories that we reviewed earlier. You will learn more about the latter John Williams in Chapter 6, while there is detailed information about the former in *Volume 2, Addendum 4*.

## The Two Marys

A majority of family histories express a belief that Mrs. Ramsey's Mary Elizabeth Williams was the husband of William Harmon. A quick examination of the facts will show that to be incorrect, the correct wife of William Harmon was almost certainly the second Mary.

First, Mary is said to have been born on 8 Nov 1791. Second, we know from marriage records that William Harmon was married in 1807 and that Simon's consent was required for William to marry his daughter. So, if William's wife was Mary Elizabeth (who was born more than 10 years earlier, on 5 Mar 1780) then she would have been 27 years old

(or 23 years old if you still believe they married in 1803). Either way, her father's written consent was not required by law. And later we'll review Census records for William Harmon, which clearly show that Mary Elizabeth was too old to have been his wife.

But some family histories show the second Mary's husband to have been George S. Greene, not William Harmon. George S. Greene is found in at least one Census record living near Mount Vernon (at the opposite end of the county from where Simon was living), in an area where there were several non-related Williams families. No record of this marriage has been found in the four jurisdictions where Simon's other children are known to have been married. The connection to Mary Williams, wife of George S. Greene is very sketchy, to say the least.

There would appear to be no evidence in the public record of the existence of Mary Elizabeth Williams, and it is puzzling that there would be two Marys in one family. Clearly, the available family histories offer no help in understanding this conundrum, as there is less concordance about the two Marys than for any of Simon's other children (with the possible exception of John). The lack of a marriage record for Mary Elizabeth Williams, coupled with clear evidence that it was the second Mary Williams who was the wife of William Harmon, points to a likely explanation: that Mary Elizabeth Williams did not survive childhood and died before the second Mary was born (perhaps one was named for a paternal grandmother and the other for a maternal grandmother?). It was not an uncommon occurrence in families of this period to reuse the given name of a deceased child, and later you will learn that the name of one of Simon's grandchildren (by his daughter, Phebe) was 'recycled' in such a manner.

## **Four Unproven Daughters**

That leaves Phebe, Nellie, Winnie and Anna for whom thus far there is no direct evidence in the public record that Simon was their father. But given that Mrs. Ramsey has been spot-on for nine of Simon's other children, it seems safe to take it on faith that Simon was also the father of these four women, especially since later you will see that Phebe's relationship was confirmed in a written account by one of her grandsons. Chapter 6 seeks to identify the proven grandchildren of Simon Williams, and in doing so will provide considerable detail about each of his children. Within those details there is considerable assurance that our faith in Mrs. Ramsey's accounting of Simon's children is well placed.

## FAMILY CONNECTIONS

*(Italicized relationships have not been proven.)*

Lee Allen & <i>Elizabeth Graham</i>	Martha Allen & William Williams	
James Cato/Cater & Ellender unknown	Ellender Cater & Lewis Williams	
	Joseph Cater & Jemima Williams	
John Harmon & <i>Elizabeth Langston</i>	Lewis Harmon & Eleanor Williams	
unknown Harmon & unknown mother	William Harmon & Mary Williams	
Arthur Johnson & Lucy Harmon	Sampson Johnson & Winnie Williams	
	George Johnson & Anna Williams	Simon Williams & Anna unknown
Joseph Journey & Margaret Magee	Audra Journey & George Williams	
William Lowe & <i>Bethany McLendon</i>	Lydia Lowe & Enoch Williams	
James Martin & Millie unknown	James Martin & Sally Williams	
	Polly Martin & Bennet Williams	
Moses Pruitt & Rachel unknown	Moses Pruitt & Phebe Williams	
unknown Rook & Margarett unknown	Elizabeth Rook & John Williams	

## CHAPTER 5:

### FAMILY CONNECTIONS

This chapter looks at the many families that Simon's children married into, examining what is known about their lives prior to their arrival in Indiana. This provides a means of double-checking available facts in order to minimize errors. It also helps to identify the families that siblings had married into, as often these families are found as neighbors of Simon Williams and his children. This level of circumstantial evidence helps to improve the overall confidence in the conclusions reached about many of the individuals reviewed in this book, and helps to point where out a few minor items of family tradition defy logic.

The results of each of the following sections (which are presented in alphabetical order) vary from family to family. Some families, such as the Harmons and Rooks, largely remain a mystery, as there is insufficient information to clearly determine how the many early Harmons and Rooks who settled in early southwestern Indiana are related. For other families there is considerable detail that has been found about their extended family and from whence they came. The others fall somewhere along a continuum between those two points.

These families and their marriage ties to Simon Williams are illustrated on the chart found on the page to the left.

*NOTE: There are many land transactions documented in this section, some of which span the decades immediately following the Revolutionary War. For several reasons, during that period there was a severe money shortage. Delving into the cause of such problems is well beyond the scope of this book, but the reader may wonder why some deeds discussed in this chapter were purchased with pounds sterling and not U.S. dollars? The short answer is that silver coins had a value that could easily be estimated, whereas paper money was prone to fluctuations in value. And since the United States had no gold or silver mines, it was common to use coins of other countries, principally of England and Spain, though any hard currency was preferred over paper money.*

*The shortage of hard currency was so acute, that it was very common that there would not be sufficient coinage to make correct change. It was common practice to cut coins in up to eight equal pieces as a means of making change. Thus, two such bits were equal to one quarter of a whole coin, which is how "two bits" became synonymous with a quarter and "eight bits" with a dollar.*

## THE ALLENS

Martha Allen was the wife of William Williams. She is listed in both the 1850 and 1860 Census as having been born in South Carolina (her year of birth was listed as 1796 in the former Census and 1800 in the latter).

On 1 Sep 1812, Simon Williams posted bond for “a marriage shortly intended to be solemnized between William Williams son of s<sup>d</sup> Simon and Miss Martha Allen daughter of Lee Allen, Consent of said Lee being this day duly certified.” The consent signed by Lee Allen was dated 26 Aug 1812.<sup>97</sup>

The narrative that follows documents some facts surrounding four Allen males: Gersham, Isaac, Lee and Squire. It is thought that Gersham was the family patriarch and the others were three of his sons (while circumstantially this appears plausible, attempting to establish it as fact is well outside the scope of this book). Gersham is said to have been born 10 Feb 1734 in Orange County, North Carolina, where he married Patience Graham on 12 Sept 1763.<sup>98</sup> The Allens had lived for a while in Pendleton District, South Carolina, in an area currently inundated by Lake Hartwell. A map on the next page shows the area as it would have appeared in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. (The Tugaloo River is unlabeled and is shown on the left side of the map. It joins the Seneca River at Andersonville to form the Savannah River.)

In the 1790 Census, the households of Lee Allen and Gersham Allen are found in the records of Pendleton County, South Carolina. Their households were separated by the household of William Cox.

On 22 Oct 1791, Gersham Allen and E. Graham were witness to a 76.5 acre survey of a South Carolina land grant for Elizabeth Thrasher for land on Wolf Creek of the Tugaloo River.<sup>99</sup> And on 18 Feb 1793, Gersham Allen was a witness to the survey of a land grant of Edward Graham (who is believed to be the same Edward Graham who also migrated to Warren County, Kentucky) for 930 acres on Cleveland Creek of the Tugaloo River.<sup>100</sup>

On 13 Dec 1793, Lee Allen was witness to a deed from Squire Allen to Robert Smith for 272 acres on Little Beaverdam Creek on the Tugaloo River.<sup>101</sup>

In the 1800 Census, Lee Allen was still living in Pendleton County, South Carolina, and William Cox was still his next door neighbor; they were counted as part of Colonel Kilpatrick's Regiment. Gersham is in the same Census and in the same neighborhood, but there are dozens of intervening households between his record and Lee's.

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<sup>97</sup> Western Kentucky University, Manuscript & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records*, MSS 230, Box 4, folder 7, item 23-2 (bond) and 23-3 (consent).

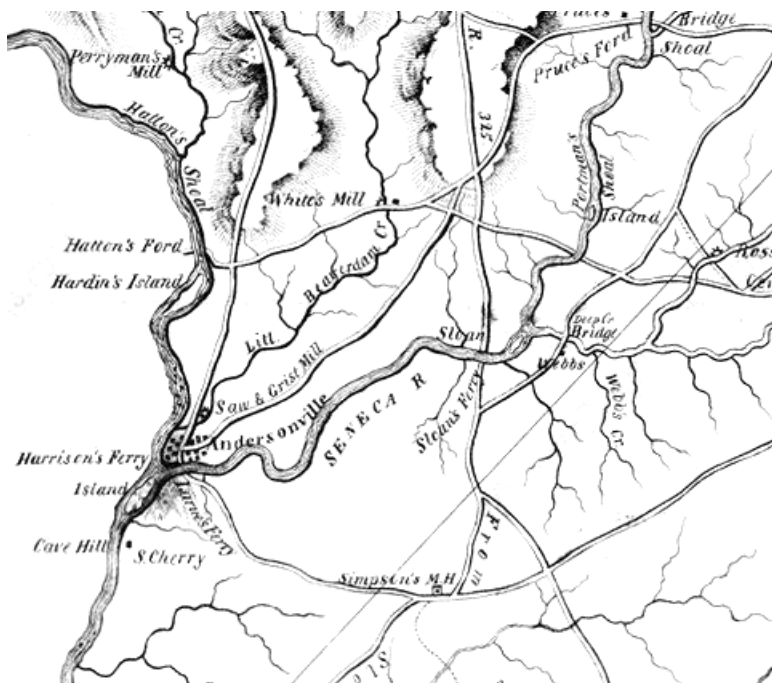
<sup>98</sup> *The Ancestry of David Bracewell* by Carey Bracewell (2011), page 110.

<sup>99</sup> South Carolina Department of Archives and History online database, *Plats for State Land Grants, 1784-1868, Series 213190, Volume 27*, page 350, item 2.

<sup>100</sup> South Carolina Department of Archives and History online database, *Plats for State Land Grants, 1784-1868, Series 213190, Volume 29*, page 397, item 1.

<sup>101</sup> *Pendleton District, S. C. Deeds, 1790-1806* by Betty Willie (1982), page 106 (*Book B*, pages 162-163).





The area of Pendleton District, South Carolina showing where the Tugaloo River and Seneca River join to form the Savannah River.<sup>102</sup>

On 25 Oct 1804, Lee Allen purchased 190 acres on the north side of Little Beaverdam Creek from David Guest (the purchase price was not noted in the abstract).<sup>103</sup>

In 1805, there are side-by-side Warren County, Kentucky tax records for Gersham, Squire and Isaac Allen, but not for Lee.<sup>104</sup> The same is true for 1806.<sup>105</sup>

On 5 Nov 1806, Lee Allen sold the property that he had purchased from David Guest to Jacob Holland for \$600, with Squire Allen and Elizabeth Allen as witnesses.<sup>106</sup>

Just one year later, on 3 Feb 1807, Lee Allen purchased from William H. Lacy for “a valuable consideration and one dollar” a 200 acre parcel that was a part of a 1,000 acre parcel on Trammel Creek granted to Edmund Rogers on 14 Jan 1794.<sup>107</sup> (William Hughes Lacy is said to have been the father-in-law of Brooks Hall Davis, from whose estate Simon Williams had acquired land in Allen County. With Brooks and Lee being close neighbors it suggests a possible family connection between William Lacy and Lee

<sup>102</sup> From the map of Pendleton District found in *South Carolina State Atlas 1825, Surveyed 1817 to 1821* by Robert Mills (1825 – also known as *Mills's Atlas*).

<sup>103</sup> *Pendleton District, S. C. Deeds, 1790-1806* by Betty Willie (1982), page 407 (*Book H*, page 399).

<sup>104</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1805, List 1*, page 1, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>105</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1806, List 2*, page 1, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>106</sup> *Pendleton District, S. C. Deeds, 1790-1806* by Betty Willie (1982), page 410 (*Book H*, page 413 and 414).

<sup>107</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Deeds, Book C-3*, page 200 and 201.

Allen. All three men had lived in Pendleton District, South Carolina before moving to Warren County, Kentucky.)

The above referenced grant for Edmund Rogers had originally been surveyed for Presley Thornton, and it appears that the portion conveyed to Lee Allen was the northernmost part of the survey. The property straddles Trammel Creek and is a little over a half mile to the southwest of the two Simon Williams properties that were conveyed to Thomas Cooksey in 1818. The property is accessed via Ayers Road, which is on the southwest side of Bowling Green Road (old Highway 231), along the northern edge of the Mt. Union Baptist Church property. Edmund Rogers had sold the property to Wm. M. Lacy [sic] on 29 Oct 1801, with Burwell Thompson, Stephen Thompson and Nancy Thompson (probably Stephen's wife) as witnesses.<sup>108</sup>

In 1807 Lee Allen is found on the tax rolls of Warren County, Kentucky, living on 200 acres of third rate land on the waters of Trammel Creek. The land had been entered by, surveyed for and patented by Edmund Rogers. He paid the poll tax, but was not taxed for any horses. The entry that followed his was for 'Gasham' Allen, who was not taxed for land, but paid the poll tax and was taxed for one horse.<sup>109</sup>

In 1809, Lee is again living on 200 acres of Trammel Creek that had been entered by E. Rogers. He paid the poll tax and was taxed for one horse. Gersham Allen is no longer found living next to him.

Lee is found in the 1810 Census for Warren County; we'll review this record in more detail a bit later when we take a close look at Lee's children. In the 1810 Census for Wilkinsonville, Randolph County, Illinois Territory (present day Pulaski County, Illinois) are the households of S. Allen and G. Allen; Gersham is believed to have moved to Illinois with his son Squire.<sup>110</sup>

In 1811, Lee Allen paid taxes for 200 acres of third rate land on the waters of Trammel Creek on land entered by, surveyed for and patented by Edmond Rogers. He also paid the poll tax and was taxed for three horses.<sup>111</sup> And on 5 Jun 1811, he was a witness to a deed from Samuel and Precious Thompson to James Crutcher.<sup>112</sup> Also that year, and in 1812, he was listed as being one of the elders of Trammel's Fork Baptist Church (which had been established perhaps as early as 1802).<sup>113</sup>

On 4 July 1812, Lee Allen was witness to the will of John Weatherspoon of Warren County, Kentucky (along with John Travers, John Beard and Hugh Hagan).<sup>114</sup> Shortly

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<sup>108</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Deeds, Book C-3*, page 19.

<sup>109</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1807, List 2*, page 1, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>110</sup> *The Ancestry of David Bracewell* by Carey Bracewell (2011), page 110.

<sup>111</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1811, List 1*, page 1, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>112</sup> *Deed Abstracts of Warren County, Kentucky, 1797-1812 (Deed Books A1, B2, C3, D4, E5)* by Joyce Martin Murray (1985), page 94.

<sup>113</sup> *Pioneer Baptist Church Records of South-Central Kentucky and the Upper Cumberland of Tennessee, 1799-1899* by C.P. Cawthorn and N.L. Warnell (1985), page 152.

<sup>114</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Loose Papers, 1796-1880, T-Z*, FHL microfilm #273017.

after Martha's wedding, Lee Allen gave consent for his daughter Priscilla to marry John S. Kitchen on 17 Dec 1812 in Warren County, Kentucky.<sup>115</sup>

On 13 Nov 1813, Lee Allen witnessed a Warren County deed by John Benson of Gibson County, Indiana Territory to Armsted Dodson (like Lee, Armsted Dodson also served as a minister of Trammel's Fork Baptist Church [in 1815]). Other witnesses were Henry Travers and John Smith.<sup>116</sup>

On 28 Sep 1815, Lee Allen bought 100 acres of land in Allen County, Kentucky from Norman S. and Rachel Clardy for \$800. Witnesses were Jno. B. Smith, Daniel Reed and James McConnell.<sup>117</sup>

In 1813, 1814, 1815, 1820, 1821 and 1824 Lee Allen was recorded as being one of the "messengers" of Sulphur Springs Baptist Church located in present-day Allen County, Kentucky, though there are no records that he ever performed any marriages there. And the following is recorded about Lee in the 1826 minutes of the Drakes Creek [Baptist] Association:<sup>118</sup>

*"Whereas **Lee Allen** and **Anderson Durnal**, both ordained ministers, formerly members of Sulphur Spring Church, residing in the bounds of the Drakes Creek Association, have been excluded from the fellowship of the church and Association, and have on application failed to give up their credentials – this is to let the public know that we are not accountable for their conduct."*

'Gasham' Allen and Clement Allen happen to have been buyers at the estate of George Johnson in Gibson County in Dec 1815, along with Arthur Johnson and several of his clan.<sup>119</sup> This was likely *not* Lee's father, but was probably a nephew; since on 10 Sep 1814, Gersham Allen had married Hannah Johnson in Gibson County, Indiana Territory (no marriage return was found). And on 29 Mar 1815, Clement Allen married Esther Stormont, also in Gibson County. The latter marriage was performed by E. Hogan, Esq. Clement and Gresham Allen are named as sons of the widow Nancy Allen (apparently the widow of Isaac Allen, but direct proof was not found of this relationship), whose will was written in Allen County, Kentucky on 1 May 1837 and proven in Oct 1839. Her other children were Clary (Clarinda) Kitchen (wife of William Kitchen), Millington Allen, John Allen, Lidia Kimmons, Nancy Russell, Sally Dixon and Edward Allen.<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Marriages 1797 through 1851* by Sandra K. Gorin (1999), page 101. (1999)

<sup>116</sup> *Deed Abstracts of Warren County, Kentucky, 1812-1821 (Deed Books F-6, G-7, H-8, I-9)* by Joyce Martin Murray (1986), page 29.

<sup>117</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Deeds, Book B 1815-1819*, page 176.

<sup>118</sup> *Pioneer Baptist Church Records of South-Central Kentucky and the Upper Cumberland of Tennessee, 1799-1899* by C.P. Cawthorn and N.L. Warnell (1985), page 144.

<sup>119</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Wills, Book A*, pages 131-133.

<sup>120</sup> *Allen County Wills and Settlements 1840-1902 (Abstracts)*, found at [www.allencountyky.com/database/will/A.html](http://www.allencountyky.com/database/will/A.html) on 7 Jul 2014.

On 4 Jul 1817, Lee and Elizabeth Allen sold 100 acres of land in Warren County, Kentucky to Thomas Beauchamp of Barren County, Kentucky for \$1,000.<sup>121</sup>

Lee Allen was listed in the 1820 Census for Allen County, Kentucky with a household of eight with no slaves. In the 1819 and 1820 tax lists for Allen County he was not taxed for any land.<sup>122</sup>

On 17 May 1826, Lee Allen of Simpson County, Kentucky sold 200 acres in Allen County, Kentucky to William Hagans for \$800.<sup>123</sup>

At some point after that time, Lee Allen joined his children in Posey County and apparently spent most of the remainder of his days there (which was probably why his credentials weren't immediately returned to the Drakes Creek Baptist Association in 1826 – he had moved out of state). In the 1830 Census Lee Allen, Senior was living alone in Smith Township between the households of Bennet Williams and David Benson, while not far away his son Avery was living next door to Enoch Williams. Both Littleton Lowe (husband of Patience Allen) and William Williams (husband of Martha Allen) were living just a few doors further down.

Also in the 1830 Census, Dixon Allen was living nearby in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, living close to Bennet Williams' son John and Moses Pruitt's son John (in Section 32, T4S, R11W).

A Lee Allen is found listed on the 1837 tax list for Allen County, Kentucky, paying the poll tax and being taxed for 200 acres on the Middle Fork of Drakes Creek, seven blacks over age 16 and four horses. He was also taxed for 300 acres in Simpson County, Kentucky on the waters of Drakes Creek, plus, as guardian of the Stratton heirs, of an additional 150 acres, also in Simpson County on Drakes Creek. In total, his taxable holdings were valued at \$6,550.<sup>124</sup> In 1838, he again paid the poll tax and was taxed for one black over age 16, five total blacks and four horses. He was also taxed for 500 acres of land. His total taxable holdings amounted to \$4,210.<sup>125</sup> Both these entries are very probably for Lee's same-named son, Lee Allen, Junior.

There is a Benjamin Allen in the 1840 Smith Township Census, who happens to be living next door to William Williams. No 1840 Census record was found for Lee Allen in either Indiana or Kentucky, but there is an entry for the household of Lee Allen in Warren County, Kentucky that is found next to that of Dixon Allen: there were no individuals enumerated from that household.

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<sup>121</sup> *Deed Abstracts of Warren County, Kentucky, 1812-1821 (Deed Books F-6, G-7, H-8, I-9)* by Joyce Martin, Murray (1986), page 86.

<sup>122</sup> *Earliest Tax Lists of Allen County, Kentucky, 1815-1824* by Martha Werst Jackson (1990), pages 66 and 89.

<sup>123</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Deeds, Book C 1820-1825*, page 503.

<sup>124</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Tax Records* by Jeanetta Steenbergen Gardner (1999), page 218.

<sup>125</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Tax Records* by Jeanetta Steenbergen Gardner (1999), page 244.

At the November 1844 Term of the Posey County Probate Court, Avery Allen, administrator of the estate of Lee Allen, filed his final settlement of the estate and was released from any further liability.<sup>126</sup> It probably took some time to settle Lee's estate, so he almost certainly had died prior to 1844, perhaps even before 1840.

However, a curious footnote about Avery Allen is found in the journals of both the Indiana House of Representatives and the Indiana Senate. For some reason it was required that a law be passed in order for Avery Allen to dispose of an unspecified piece of property. On 7 Feb 1848 the law passed the House of Representatives and on 12 Feb 1848 it passed the Senate.<sup>127</sup> It read as follows:

*"No. 391. A bill to authorize **Avery Allen**, of Posey county, to make a deed in a certain case to certain land in said county;"*

On 30 Sep 1848, Avery Allen, as administrator of the estate of Lee Allen, conveyed to Alfred Nesbit a 30 acre portion of the SW ¼ SW ¼ of Section 11, T4S, R12W "in accordance with a law enacted by the last Legislature of Indiana and also by an order of the Probate Court of Posey County."<sup>128</sup> This property was part of the patent of David Benson, and it abutted the patent of Simon Williams. No public record of Lee Allen's purchase of this property was found as part of this research, so it could be that this was an unrecorded deed that came to light after his estate had been settled.

Records of the probate of Lee Allen's estate are held at the Indiana State Archives in Indianapolis in file number 4001-17. There also exists file 4001-18 for Leroy Allen (who appears to have died some time between 1848 and the 1850 Census). The latter may or may not be related to Lee Allen, who is found in no other records as "Leroy." However, in light of the preceding facts about having to have a law passed in order to sell real property from his estate in 1848, it could very possibly also be his probate file. The first probate file is quite large and no doubt contains a treasure trove of information about this family. Unfortunately, the pricing schedule currently adopted by the Archives makes obtaining a copy extraordinarily expensive, so it is left to Lee's direct descendants to access these files for a clearer understanding of their family patriarch.

Corroborating information about Lee's sons Lee Junior, Gilbert and Dixon/Dickson is found in a message board post found at <http://genforum.genealogy.com/ky/allen/messages/474.html>:<sup>129</sup>

*"**Lee Allen Jr.** was born 5 Aug 1800.<sup>130</sup> He swore a deposition 8 November 1845 in Simpson County for a lawsuit of his father's, **Lee Allen Sr.**, in which he names*

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<sup>126</sup> Posey County, Indiana Probate Orders, Book F, page 105.

<sup>127</sup> Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Indiana during the Thirty-Second Session of the General Assembly commencing December 6, 1847 by Indiana General Assembly (1848), page 411, and Journal of the Indiana State Senate during the Thirty-Second Session of the General Assembly commencing December 6, 1847 by Indiana General Assembly (1848), page 573.

<sup>128</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book P, page 138.

<sup>129</sup> Another message board post by Dorothy Steers, an archives volunteer, identifies the file that this information is taken from as Allen County, Kentucky Archives file 593-1845.



his brothers, **Gilbert** and **Avery**. His other brother, **Dickson Allen**, who is living in Warren County at the time, also received a summons to court. He swore his deposition for his father, **Lee Allen Sr.**, in Warren County on 22 November 1845. He named his brothers **Gilbert** and **Avery** within his deposition as well.”

That concludes our review of the known facts as they relate to Lee Allen. Now we’ll review some additional unsourced information about him and his family.

## Unsourced Information

On page 378 of *The Genealogy Newspaper Columns of Robert E. Turman*, Tri-State Genealogical Society (1987) we find the following:

*“Avery Allen was a son of Leroy and Elizabeth (Graham) Allen. I’ve never found any printed biographical data, but have been told that Leroy’s family consisted of at least four daughters in addition to the son Avery. There were Elizabeth Allen (1809-1901), who first married John Marshall Williams (1808-1846)<sup>131</sup> and then about 1857 married a Charles Whiting; Patience Allen (1812-1875), wife of Littleton Lowe; Matilda,<sup>132</sup> wife of George H. Meadows; and Martha, who was married in Warren County, Ky., Sept. 10, 1812, to Wm. Williams. Martha died in 1864.”*

Turman’s account that Matilda Allen was Lee’s daughter is contradicted by an undated marriage consent signed by her real father, Avery Allen, for her marriage to George H. Meadows.<sup>133</sup>

The account continues farther on down the page:

*“The father, Avery Allen, homesteaded 120 acres in Smith Township, Posey Co., Ind., paying \$1.25 an acre. The story goes that two men had settled the same claim, and settled it by riding horseback from Vincennes, Ind., Avery winning by a half hour. Avery’s father back in Kentucky, Leroy (or “Lee”) Allen, had many slaves, but on freeing them, they would not leave. Lee died on the old*



*The top of Avery Allen’s tombstone  
(photo by the author).*

<sup>130</sup> Find A Grave, memorial #81350523 (no headstone picture), Wade Cemetery, Allen County, Kentucky.

<sup>131</sup> This particular relationship is documented on page 350 of *Compendium of American Genealogy, Volume VII*, edited by Frederick Adams Virkus (1942).

<sup>132</sup> This is almost certainly incorrect. See later discussion about Matilda.

<sup>133</sup> Page 252, *Posey County, Indiana: A Documented History, 1815-1900, Volume II* by Carroll O. and Gloria M. Cox (1987).

*family farm near Bowling Green, Ky., according to a letter written in 1947 by the late Mrs. Ella Pollard.*<sup>134</sup>

The facts about the competing claims to the property of Avery Allen are somewhat suspect, as there is evidence that Avery had entered only 80 acres of land (E ½ NE ¼ of Section 10, T4S, R12W) from the General Land Office and that he did so rather late in comparison to the land entries of his neighbors and relatives; on 23 Sep 1832 (receiving the patent on 10 Sep 1835);<sup>135,136</sup> that is a time period when conflicting land claims would have been *very uncommon*, unless an earlier entry had been relinquished to the government.<sup>137</sup> The statement that Lee died near Bowling Green is also suspect in light of his 1844 Posey County probate record. And Turman's statement that Lee was a nickname for Leroy is questionable: in public records he is always listed as Lee Allen (this is the only published source or public record that records Leroy as his given name).

Mr. Turman's comments about Lee Allen's family are corroborated by Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey on pages 35 and 36 of *Looking Backward Ten Generations: with connected families*, and she also provides some additional information:

*“Betsy Graham, born in North Carolina about 1780, married Lee Allen, born in South Carolina. (Grandmother said his father was a high ranking officer in Revolutionary War.)*

*Issue –*

*Leroy, Avery, Dixon, Bennet, Robert, James, Elizabeth (who married John Marshall Williams), Allen, Patience, Carolina and Gilbert (?). (they called him Bert, but Grandmother<sup>138</sup> was not so sure of his name other than Bert.)*

*Patience married Littleton Lowe*

*Avery married Elizabeth Lowe*

*James married Elizabeth Jolly”*

A glaring omission in the above account is that it does not include Lee's two eldest daughters, Martha and Priscilla, despite his consent to both of their marriages and the fact that they both lived in the vicinity of Cynthiana, Indiana. 'Bennet' Allen was probably actually Benjamin Allen, who will be discussed later.

Mrs. Ramsey adds four new names for our consideration: Robert, James, Allen and Carolina. A review of Lee's 1800, 1810 and 1820 Census records shows that, if this information is completely accurate, these would seem mostly to have been his older children, and most don't appear to have survived childhood. The exception is Robert, who was living two doors down from Patrick Calvert and three doors down from Elder

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<sup>134</sup> Mrs. Ella Pollard, wife of Ellis C. Pollard, was Avery Allen's granddaughter, a daughter of Mary Serilda Allen and Bennett T. Williams.

<sup>135</sup> *Genealogy Lists of Posey County, IN, Volume I* by Darlene McConnell (1996), page 2.

<sup>136</sup> *General Land Office Records*, Accession # IN0080\_224.

<sup>137</sup> There is an easily accessible source of information regarding relinquishments for Gibson County, but none is known for Posey County.

<sup>138</sup> Zereldia (Williams) Wade, granddaughter of Lee Allen and Bennet Williams.

James Martin in the 1820 Census for Armstrong Township, but who is not found after that time. He had made a land entry for the W ½ SW ¼ of Section 20, T4S, R11W in Armstrong Township on 23 Aug 1819.

## A Review of Lee Allen's Children

Given the murky mess created by the accounts of Turman and Ramsey, it is worth making a quick review of the long list of children given in the preceding section, and then comparing these individuals against Census records and other public records, to see how well things match up.

The following is a summary of what we've just learned of Lee's children and what can be learned of them from Census and cemetery records (bear in mind that some of the birth years are more precise than others). Underlined items directly prove the relationship to Lee Allen, Senior, those items that are struck through have been disproven and *italicized* entries remain to be proven (and they remain in italics in the Census analysis that follows later):

- Martha (Allen) Williams (b. about 1794). Married 1812, consent by Lee Allen. Also per Turman.
- Priscilla (Allen) Kitchen (b. about 1795). Married 1812, consent by Lee Allen.
- *Robert Allen (b. about 1799?). Per Ramsey.*
- Lee Allen, Junior (b. 1800). Per Turman and Ramsey. Named as a son in the Simpson County depositions.
- Avery Allen (b. 1802). Per Turman and Ramsey. Named as a son in the Simpson County depositions.
- *Bennet [Benjamin] Allen (b. about 1805). Per Ramsey.*
- Dixon (or Dickson) Allen (b. about 1807). Per Turman and Ramsey. Named as a son in the Simpson County depositions.
- *Elizabeth (Allen) Williams (b. about 1808), wife of Bennet's son John. Per Turman and Ramsey.*
- Gilbert Allen (b. about 1809). Per Ramsey. Named as a son in the Simpson County depositions.
- *Patience (Allen) Lowe (b. about 1812). Per Turman and Ramsey.*
- ~~Matilda (Allen) Meadows (b. 1822). Per Turman.~~ She was not Lee Allen's daughter: she was the daughter of Avery Allen.

The following children were not found in marriage or Census records, so no approximate age is known for them:

- *James Allen. Per Ramsey.*
- *Allen Allen. Per Ramsey.*
- *Carolina Allen. Per Ramsey.*

The 1800 Census for Pendleton County, South Carolina describes Lee's household thus:

- Males: two under age 10 (*Robert, Lee Junior*) and one aged 26 to 44 (Lee Senior)
- Females: three under age 10 (Priscilla, Martha, ?), one aged 10 to 15 (?) and one aged 26 to 44 (Betsy).

Lee would seem to have had two daughters whose identities have not been proven.

The 1810 Census for Warren County, Kentucky shows the following members of Lee's household:

- Males: five under age 10 (Lee Junior, Avery, *Benjamin*, Dickson, Gilbert), one age 10-15 (*Robert*), one aged 26-44 (Lee Senior).
- Females: one under age 10 (*Elizabeth*), one aged 10-15 (Priscilla), one aged 16-25 (Martha), one aged 26-44 (Betsy).

So it would seem that we have a complete picture of his family in 1810, though names that are italicized are not proven to be his children.

In 1820, his household consisted of:

- Males: three aged 10-15 (*Benjamin*, Dickson, Gilbert), one aged 16-25 (Avery), one aged 45+ (Lee Senior).
- Females: two under age 10 (*Patience*, *Elizabeth*), one aged 45+ (Betsy).

So the 1820 Census is also a complete match, though again those children listed in italic type are not proven. Thus the additional three children noted by Ramsey (*James*, *Allen* and *Carolina*) are not accounted for. That would mean that either:

- 1) They had died in childhood;
- 2) They had moved away from home prior to 1810;
- 3) She was mistaken about one or more of them;
- 4) That Benjamin, Patience and/or Elizabeth, whose relationships remain unproven, were not Lee's children (which would make room for James, Allen and/or Carolina);
- 5) That one or more of these three children were known by more than one name; or
- 6) Two or more of the above are true.

Given Mrs. Ramsey's track record for errors and erroneous information, it is not worth pursuing this issue to a definitive conclusion. While it is possible that Lee and his wife could have had children born before Priscilla (b. 1792) and Martha (b. 1794), most such children would not have been of age by 1807, when we are certain that Lee was in Warren County. As such, there are good odds that there should be marriage records for them there, but no such records were found.

While there is proof that Lee Allen was the father of *most* of the children discussed above, proof is lacking for Benjamin, Elizabeth and Patience, and thus their relationship is speculative. While the one error by Turman is a rarity, the publication of information that is not supported by facts appears to be a trend in Mrs. Wise's booklet, so the information that is found *only* in her booklet cannot be trusted.

## THE CATERS AND DAVISES

There were two Cater marriages to children of Simon Williams: Elder Lewis Williams married Elender Cater in 1810 in Warren County, Kentucky; and Joseph Cater married Jemima Williams seven years later in Posey County, Indiana. All four are buried in the Simon Williams Family Cemetery near Cynthiana, Indiana. And there is strong evidence of both men having lived in close proximity to one another in both Warren County and in the vicinity of Cynthiana, over a period spanning about five decades.

At first it appears that there is conflicting information about where the Caters had lived before migrating west. The 1850 Census says Elender (Cater) Williams was born in South Carolina, while the 1860 Census states she was born in North Carolina. But a biography of Absalom Malone,<sup>139</sup> states that she was a native of South Carolina, and the 1850 Census record for her brother Joseph lists South Carolina as his birthplace.



*The broken headstone of Ellenor,  
"wife of James Cater / Died 1835. /  
AGED / About 78 years"  
Found at Simon Williams Family Cemetery.*

Researching Cater ancestry in early South Carolina is complicated by the existence of at least two (probably unrelated) Cater families, and by the fact that the family surname also shows up in early records as Cato and Catoe. One of these Cater families had immigrated through Charlestown at a very early time and received land grants along the Ashley River not far upstream from Charlestown. For the line of interest to us there currently are no leads that can help to identify where they had been before settling in South Carolina, but no obvious connection to the Ashley River Cater family could be found.

The following abstract from the files of the Court of Common Pleas of Newberry County, South Carolina provides clear, direct evidence of the family members of James Cater:

***"William Cater vs. Daniel Cater***

***"October 1810***

***"James Cater died in 1800. He had a tract of land on Enoree River bounded by John Epps, Levi Casey, William Neighbours, and Peter Braselmann containing about 187 acres. James left the following children: William Cater, Daniel Cater,***

<sup>139</sup> *History of White County Illinois* by Inter-State Publishing Company (1883), page 933.



*Mary the wife of John Davis, Elizabeth the wife of Israel Davis, Elener the wife of Louis Williams, and Joseph Cater a minor. Petition for a guardian for the minor Joseph Cater who is residing in Kentucky names Thomas Duckett as guardian. The land to be sold by the sheriff on the 1st Monday in May 1811. (Box 1, Folder A-15)”*

Thus we know with certainty that the two Caters of principal interest to us were siblings. The first record of James Cato in Newberry County is found in his redemption of a warrant dated 2 Mar 1773 for 200 acres of land which was surveyed by Enoch Pearson on 30 Jan 1773 “in Barkley [sic: Berkeley] County in the forks Between Broad River and Saludy in the Fork of King’s Creek, the waters of Enoree River...,” which is currently located in Sumter National Forest, about four miles due north of the town of Newberry, South Carolina (as shown in the map below).<sup>140</sup> The deed for this property was recorded in Charleston (there were no courts yet established in backcountry South Carolina), and on 14 Nov 1774 a “memorial tax return” was made there by Charles Ding on behalf of James Cato.<sup>141,142</sup>



Land Grants in Newberry County, South Carolina of James Cato/Cater and his neighbors.<sup>143</sup>

<sup>140</sup> South Carolina Archives, Series S213184, Volume 14, page 34, item 1.

<sup>141</sup> Deeds were not allowed to be recorded locally until after the Revolutionary War, which led to the creation of the South Carolina counties in 1785.

<sup>142</sup> South Carolina Archives, Series S2111001, Volume 13, page 101, item 3.

<sup>143</sup> By Steve Malone, derived from *Land Grant Maps of Newberry County, South Carolina* by Union County Historical Foundation (1976), Map 6. The base map is from USGS 30x60 Minute Series Planimetric Maps, Newberry, South Carolina (1986).

Prior to the fall of Charleston, the backwoods upcountry of South Carolina was mostly Loyalist in their sentiments. Living in the backcountry in a cash-poor society, they were far removed from most of the primary motivations for revolution. While they wouldn't initially join the patriot cause, they did enter into an agreement with the Provincial Congress to remain neutral during the war. The tide of sentiment had changed over news of the brutal treatment of patriots by the British after the fall of Charleston on 12 May 1780, which many historians believe to have been the low point of the American struggle for independence. This event resulted in the rapid formation of several militia regiments in upcountry South Carolina. Battles in the Carolinas were pivotal to General Nathanael Greene's southern campaign, and one result was that more battles were fought there than any other region of the United States, with at least ten minor battles that were fought within Newberry County.<sup>144</sup>

There is record that James Cato had served in the South Carolina militia after the fall of Charleston. After the war he had filed a claim to be paid for *his service and loss of property* (which was attested by John Blalock, Senior). On 17 Aug 1785 the State of South Carolina settled the claim, giving him £3/8s/6p plus interest of 4s/9p per annum.<sup>145</sup> This was almost certainly our James Cater, as the will of John Blalock, Senior was written in Newberry County on 5 Aug 1790 and proven on 15 May 1791.<sup>146</sup> John Blalock, Junior had served in Captain Zachariah Brooks' Company, South Carolina militia.<sup>147</sup> Captain Brooks was also from Newberry County.<sup>148</sup>

On 24 Dec 1785, Robert Hanna surveyed a 187 acre plat on the waters of Duncan Creek for James Cato (the parcel that was described earlier in the suit against his estate), which was located about 8 miles due north of James' first 200 acre grant (it was located about 2 miles southeast of Whitmire, near the intersection of State Road S-36-86 and Highway 176 – see map on the next page). Other names that show up on the plat were William Dixon, James McCracken and William Neighbours.<sup>149,150</sup>

The acquisition of this property would seem to have precipitated the sale of James' original grant. On 4 Mar 1786, James Cato sold for £100 to Andrew Yeargain 200 acres in the fork of Kings Creek “granted to James Cato Sen'r 23 June 1774, entered in the Auditor Generals office in Book M. No. 13, page 101 14 Nov 1784 [sic], entered in Secretary's office in Book QQQ, page 518.” Witnesses were Edward Finch, Abner Casey and James Vardaman.<sup>151</sup> These last two men were known to have lived in the neighborhood of his newly acquired 187 acres.

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<sup>144</sup> *Historical and Architectural Survey of Newberry County, South Carolina* by Jennifer Revels (2003), page 10.

<sup>145</sup> *South Carolina Archives, Series S018092, Reel 21, frame 183.*

<sup>146</sup> *South Carolina Archives, Series S018093, Reel 18, frame 496.*

<sup>147</sup> *Newberry County, South Carolina: Historical and Genealogical Annals* by George Leland Summer (1980), page 316.

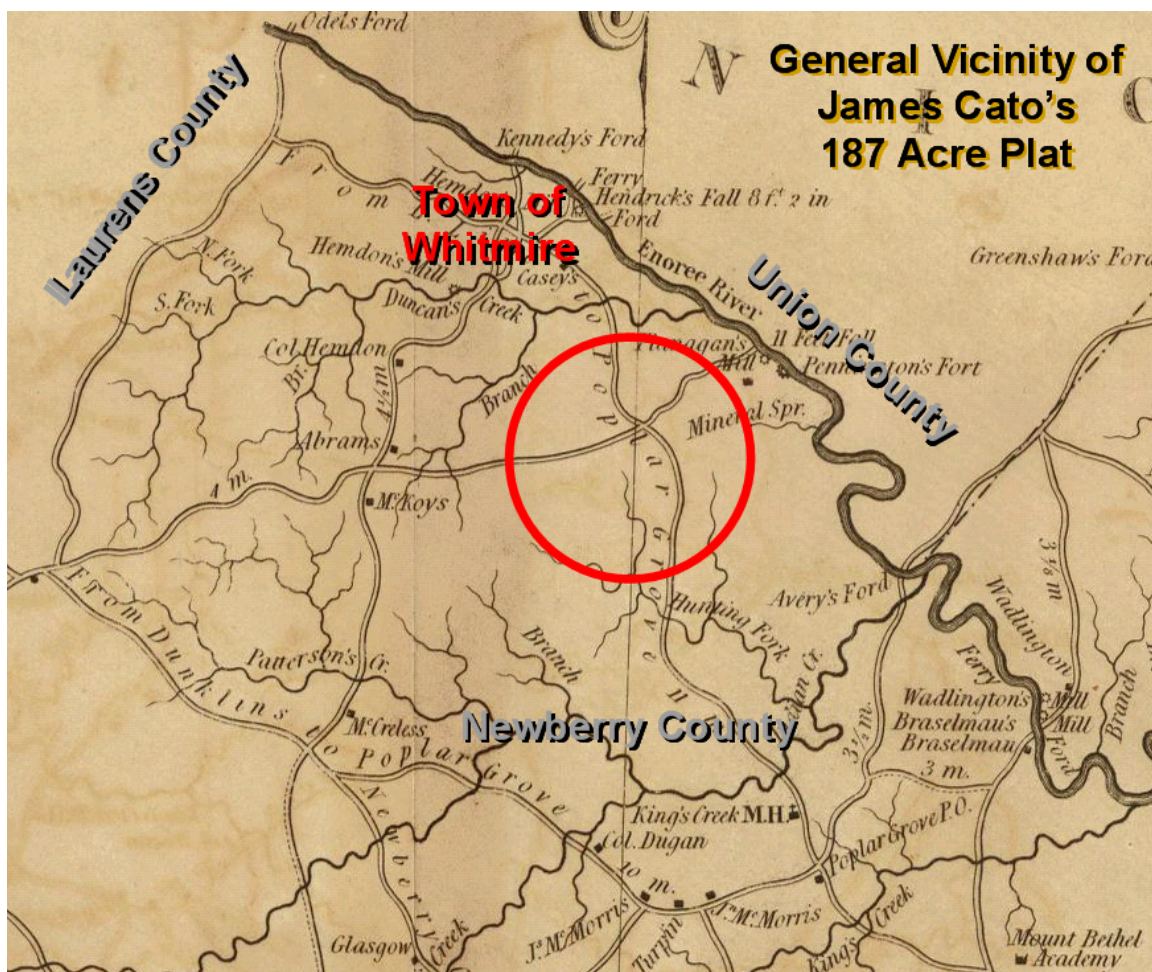
<sup>148</sup> Revolutionary War Pension Application S9294.

<sup>149</sup> *Land Grant Maps of Newberry County, South Carolina* by Union County Historical Foundation (1976), Map 3.

<sup>150</sup> *South Carolina Archives, Series S213190, Volume 9, page 295, item 1.*

<sup>151</sup> *Newberry County, South Carolina Deeds, Book A, pages 631-633.*





Map of the general location of James Cato's 187 acre plat in Newberry County, South Carolina.<sup>152</sup>

James Cato shows up (as either a witness, adjacent property owner or otherwise) in abstracts of at least two other surveys in Newberry County. One was on 24 Nov 1785 for the 247 acre plat of Robert Johnson, with the names of Levi Casey, Fowler, Robert Hanna, Robert Marrs, John Swinford and James Young appearing on that survey.<sup>153</sup> The other was for Peter Braselman and Cushman Edson on 8 Aug 1786 for 382 acres on Enoree River, which included the names of Jeremiah Dial, James Kelly, Benjamin and William "Nabourn" (Neighbours) and John Vergin.<sup>154</sup> All of these men had lived in close proximity to James' 187 acre plat.

On 1 March 1798 Ellender Cater was granted letters of administration for the estate of her husband, James Cater, with William Neighbours and James Viridin as her securities for the required £200 bond. An estate sale was held in June 1798.<sup>155</sup>

<sup>152</sup> From the map of Pendleton District found in *South Carolina State Atlas 1825, Surveyed 1817 to 1821* by Robert Mills (1825 – also known as *Mills's Atlas*).

<sup>153</sup> *South Carolina Archives, Series S213190, Volume 16, page 317, item 1.*

<sup>154</sup> *South Carolina Archives, Series S213190, Volume 9, page 533.*

<sup>155</sup> *Newberry County, South Carolina Estates, Box 5-11, number 108.*

On 2 Jun 1809, Israel, John and Uriah Davis are listed consecutively in the 1809 tax list for Warren County, Kentucky. The list shows that they were all over 21 years old and together they owned nine horses: four each for Israel and John, and one for Uriah.<sup>156</sup>

It would seem that in 1810, Joseph Cater (the future husband of Jemima Williams) was living in Kentucky, though at the time he would have been too young to have been counted as a head of household. On 16 Jan 1810, Lewis Williams had married Elender Cater in Warren County, Kentucky. Elender's mother gave consent, with Moses Pruitt (Lewis' brother-in-law) and Israel Davis (Elender's brother-in-law) as witnesses. And on 31 May 1811 William Cater married "Jennett Starra," also in Warren County.

There is a John Davis found in the 1810 Census for Warren County. He and Uriah Davis are living next to William Harmon. This John Davis was likely the husband of Mary Cater, as Uriah Davis is found in the 1820 Census for Vanderburgh County, Indiana listed between the households of Lewis and Elender (Cater) Williams and Joseph and Jemima (Williams) Cater.

Israel Davis, husband of Elizabeth Cater, is found in the 1810 Warren County Census living five households away from Moses Pruitt. Living next to him is an older Henry W. Davis (who was most probably his father, though that is not proven).<sup>157</sup> Two doors farther down the list was a young Abner Casey, who possibly was somehow related to the Abner Casey who was a witness to the 1784 Newberry County deed by James Cato.

The 1811 tax list for Warren County lists Isaac and Henry W. Davis living side-by-side, but the date that they paid taxes is not given. Isaac is listed as being over 21 and owning one horse. Henry W. is living in a household of two males over 21 years old and owning two horses.<sup>158</sup> John and Uriah Davis also paid taxes, but they are listed a few pages later. They had no land and each man paid the poll tax. John also paid the tax for one horse and Uriah was taxed for two horses.<sup>159</sup> William Cater also paid the poll tax and was taxed for one horse.<sup>160</sup>

In the 1809 and 1811 tax lists, the Davis men are not found living on any particular piece of land. That suggests that they were living on land where the taxes were paid by someone with a different surname. The 1809 tax list (where they paid taxes on 2 Jun) is a possible clue to where they were living at that time, as there would be a limited number

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<sup>156</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1809, List 1*, page 19. FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>157</sup> Family lore, recorded by Bess Simpson in 1924 as told by Daniel Davis (b. 1857), states that the father of Uriah Davis was named Joel, and a person named Fred Burns says his father was named Isaac, but these clues have created a brick wall, as no evidence of either person has been found. Daniel was a grandson of Uriah Davis, but was born well after Uriah's death. Daniel's father was probably about 22 years old when Uriah died.

<sup>158</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1811, List 1*, page 15. FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>159</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1811, List 1*, page 18. FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>160</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1811, List 1*, page 14. FHL microfilm #8255.

of others that also paid taxes on the same day, and fewer still who are found listed close to them in the 1810 Census.<sup>161</sup>

It is tantalizing that Simon Williams had been living on land owned by Brooks Hall Davis, in which he later acquired an interest. Given that two daughters of the widow Ellender Cater had married John Davis and Israel Davis, it is worth speculating about possible relationships. It doesn't appear that John and Israel were sons of Brooks Hall Davis, though perhaps he was their uncle? Was Brooks the brother of Henry W. Davis? The wife of Brooks Hall Davis was said to have been Sarah Lacy, daughter of William Hughes Lacy. Was the widow Ellender Cato originally a Davis or a Lacy, and *that* is why these families had lived so close to one another? Unfortunately, attempting to answers such questions is well outside the scope of this book, but it is worthwhile here to preserve these possible clues for some future researcher to someday find the answers.

Returning to the Caters, there is clear evidence that five of James Cater's six children and his widow were in Warren County, Kentucky at the same time around 1810, while Daniel Cater had remained in South Carolina, where he is listed in the 1810 Census for Newberry County. Three of James' children and his widow were in Vanderburgh County, Indiana by 1820, whereas John and Israel Davis appear to have remained in Kentucky or moved elsewhere. It appears that Israel remained in Warren County until after Elizabeth's death and then moved to Edmonson County, Kentucky by the 1830 Census, but this is far from being established as fact. With a name as common as John Davis, it is difficult to say what had become of him and his wife.

In 1818, William Cater was paid \$1 to assess property in Cynthiana.<sup>162</sup> In 1820 he was found listed in the Census for Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, living next door to Elder James Martin on one side, and John McCrary and brother-in-law Lewis Williams on the other. In addition to his wife, the household contained two sons and two daughters, all less than ten years of age. In May 1823 there is record of Joseph Cater being named administrator in the estate of William Cater.<sup>163</sup>

Thus Joseph Cater's line is the *predominant Cater line in early southwestern Indiana*, and we will learn more about him in a section of Chapter 6. William's line had less of an impact, as he died in his early thirties, with fewer children. We know from Census records that Joseph and Jemima had one son born before 1820 and you will later learn that Joseph's probate file identifies that person as Daniel Cater. Thus any other Cater male born in Vanderburgh County, Indiana between the date of William Cater's marriage and the 1820 Census would have been William's son. The only such person that appears to have survived to raise a family of his own was James Cater, b. 1818, who married Susannah Gallagher in 1845. James died in 1847, but he had at least one son, also named James, who lived until 1930, but never married.

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<sup>161</sup> This train of thought was not directly pursued, however, 2 Jun was when Moses Pruitt and Sampson Johnson had paid there taxes. Likely there were others who also paid on the same day.

<sup>162</sup> *History and Directory of Posey County (Indiana)* by William P. Leonard (1882), page 33.

<sup>163</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Probate Orders, Book A*, page 21.

Found in the 1850 Census in the household of Daniel Cater (Joseph and Jemima's son) is Joseph B. Cater, b. about 1823. There is no match for him in the 1830 Census for the household of Joseph and Jemima Cater, and he is not listed as an heir in Joseph's probate file. He, too, must have been a son of William Cater.



## THE HARMONS

Polly Williams and Eleanor Williams both married Harmons (William and Lewis, respectively), and the mother of the two Johnson spouses (Sampson and George) was Lucy Harmon. So it is natural to investigate the Harmon family to see if doing so will add to our knowledge of the other families that are being researched. But there are many Harmons that settled in the early days of southwestern Indiana, and it is not clear whether or not they were all related, and if they were, how closely.

A detailed but somewhat cursory investigation into the early Harmons of the area around Owensville and Cynthiana turns up the following list of Harmon males:

1. Lewis Harmon, b. about 1772 in Virginia, m. 1805 in Warren County, Kentucky to Nelly Williams. *Lewis was about 33 years old when he married Nelly, suggesting that he may have had children by an earlier wife.*
2. George Harmon, b. 1795, m. 1824 in Gibson County, Indiana to Minerva Gentry. It is possible that he was a son of Lewis Harmon by an earlier marriage, but if so, where was George during the 1820 Census? Unfortunately, George died prior to the 1850 Census, so we have no direct proof of where he was born.
3. William Harmon, b. 1782, m. 1807 in Warren County, Kentucky to Polly Williams.
4. William Harmon, husband of Susannah. He wrote his will in Gibson County on 13 Aug 1818,<sup>164</sup> and an inventory of his personal estate is dated 23 Feb 1819.<sup>165</sup> His will left all of his personal and real property to his wife and does not mention any children. He was likely slightly older than the William Harmon who married Polly Williams.
5. William Harmon, b. 1808 in Virginia, m. 1832 in Gibson County, Indiana to Patsey Waters. He was almost certainly the son of the above William Harmon who died in 1819.

And there are a similar number of females that had been Harmons before they married, who are found in the same area and time period:

1. Lucy (Harmon) Johnson, b. about 1759, wife of Arthur, m. 1779 in Brunswick County, Virginia.
2. Nancy S., wife of an unknown Harmon. She was b. about 1780 in Virginia or South Carolina. In 1826 the widow Nancy Harmon married William W. Waters. Nancy may have been Susannah, the wife of the William Harmon who died around 1819. If information provided by Census records for her eldest children is correct, those children were born in Virginia and they did not move from Virginia until 1808 or later. She lived quite close to Lewis Harmon.
3. Phoebe (Harmon) Endicott, wife of Aaron Endicott, b. about 1770, m. 1788 in Bourbon County, Kentucky.
4. Sarah Elizabeth (Harmon) Johnson, wife of Arthur L. Johnson, b. about 1795 in Virginia.

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<sup>164</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Wills, Book A*, pages 3 and 4.

<sup>165</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Wills, Book A*, pages 229 and 230.

5. Lydia (Harmon) Evans, b. 1798 in Kentucky, wife of James Evans, m. 1816 in Gibson County, Indiana. In 1840 and 1850 she lived in Princeton.

And most likely there are other Harmon females that married before arriving in Indiana that are lurking in various family trees out there. How and whether they are all related is anyone's guess. The span of time from youngest to oldest makes it obvious that at least two generations are represented, possibly even three. But with them all being in Indiana prior to statehood, and most of them living so close to one another, it would appear likely that most were closely related in some fashion.

One common thread emerges in researching the Harmons that had lived in:

- Brunswick County, Virginia;
- Rutherford County, North Carolina;
- Warren County and Allen County, Kentucky; and
- Gibson and Posey County, Indiana.

All the research points to one man: Arlis Odell Harmon. He was born on 1 Apr 1905 and lived until 30 May 1992. Arlis had lived most of his life in Allen County, Kentucky, in the part of the county that was originally part of Warren County, though for a period of about 30 years he had lived in such places as Birmingham, Alabama; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Buffalo, New York; Cincinnati, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; and Nashville, Tennessee. He was railroad engineer inspector, an accomplished gospel music composer and a lifelong bachelor, the latter likely due in large part to the fact that his mother had died when he was just four years old.<sup>166</sup> His first Harmon ancestor in Kentucky was his second great grandfather Micajah Harmon. Here is his succinct overview of the family's earlier ancestry and the story of their move to Kentucky:<sup>167</sup>

*"I have been told by my elders that the father of **Micajah** was **George Harmon**. The father of **George** was **Benskin Harmon** and the father of **Benskin** was **William**. Census records show **Micajah Harmon** 1790 and 1800 in Rutherford County, North Carolina. 1810, 1820, and 1830 in Warren County, Kentucky. Micajah left North Carolina and bought land in Warren County, Kentucky in 1803. Then he went back to Brunswick County, Virginia between 1803 and 1805 and brought his mother and two youngest brothers, **Lewis and George, Jr.** and his youngest son, **Micajah Jr.** to Kentucky"*

Arlis' "elders" were likely not his parents or his grandparents. While his father, Thomas Monroe Harmon, lived into his eighties, his grandparents (Aden Monroe and Penelope [Motley] Harmon) had died when his father was five and eight years old respectively. In the 1880 Census, Thomas is found in the household of his maternal grandparents, Lynn and Rebecca (Cagle) Motley, who were living near his paternal grandparents, Lewis D. and Sarah (Cooksey) Harmon. So Arlis' elders were children of his great grandfather,

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<sup>166</sup> From his biography, as found in the finding aid for MSS 153 for the one and a half boxes of his estate papers held at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky (Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, "Harmon, Arlis Odell, 1905-1992 [MSS 153]" [2013], MSS Finding Aids, Paper 3125).

<sup>167</sup> This was transcribed on a Rootsweb Worldconnect family tree created by Tom Hamm, Junior from a letter credited to Arlis Harmon. The source or owner of the original letter and its date were not given.

Micajah Harmon – in particular Lewis D. Harmon (Arlis' grandfather, who lived until 1884).

Additional details are found in various sources. Judith Trummel Svoboda provides the following information of interest in regard to some families that were living in Brunswick County, Virginia:<sup>168</sup>

*“Lucy was possibly the daughter of **George HARMON** who received a patent with **Herod (Howard) CLARY**, 3 March 1760. (Virginia Land Patent Book, Vol 33, p. 690). This land was located on Rattlesnake Creek, very close to the lands of **Nathaniel JOHNSON**. **George HARMON** died between February 1790 and April 1797. His will named his wife **Elizabeth**; a daughter **Rebecca EDMUNDS**, two sons, **Lewis** and **George**, both under age 21; and “the rest of my children.” No specific mention is made of daughter **Lucy**; however, **George** represented the only **HARMON** family in “the neighborhood,” and therefore, is the most likely candidate to be **Lucy (HARMON) JOHNSON**’s father.”*

The patent referred to above was for 362 acres, and was described thus:

*“Beginning at a White Oak a corner of **Ledbetters** land thence south seventy four degrees west one hundred and sixty eight poles to a white oak, thence north nineteen degrees west two hundred and forty six poles to a ?? black jack, thence south ninety eight poles to **Charley Jarvis**’s corner ?? white oaks, thence along his line south eighty degrees east two hundred and four poles to a white oak on **Ledbetters** line, thence along his line North thirty degrees east seventy two poles to his corner pines, thence north twenty ?? degrees east fifty six poles to a shrub white oak, thence north forty degrees east one hundred and four poles to the beginning.”*

The comment that “George represented the only HARMON family” in the vicinity is not accurate, as a 1767 tax list for Brunswick County, Virginia lists Micajah Harmon and two William Harmons living there at that time, though it could be that the two Williams were not living near Micajah. And in 1772 when George Harmon deeded 150 acres to John Williamson, the deed was witnessed by Benskin Harmon.<sup>169</sup> Additional facts would need to be documented in order to speculate with any degree of certainty as to the parentage of Lucy (Harmon) Johnson.

The 1767 tax information was included in a Genforum *Kentucky Genealogy Forum* post by Jim Harmon entitled Harmon settlements—Adair and Warren Co.,<sup>170</sup> which provides a timeline of the family prior to their arrival in Kentucky in the early 1800s (some minor errors have been edited for clarity; all information enclosed in square brackets had been added by Jim Harmon):

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<sup>168</sup> *The Descendants of Arthur and Lucy (Harmon) Johnson: Some Speculations* by Judith Trummel Svoboda (1996), page 3.

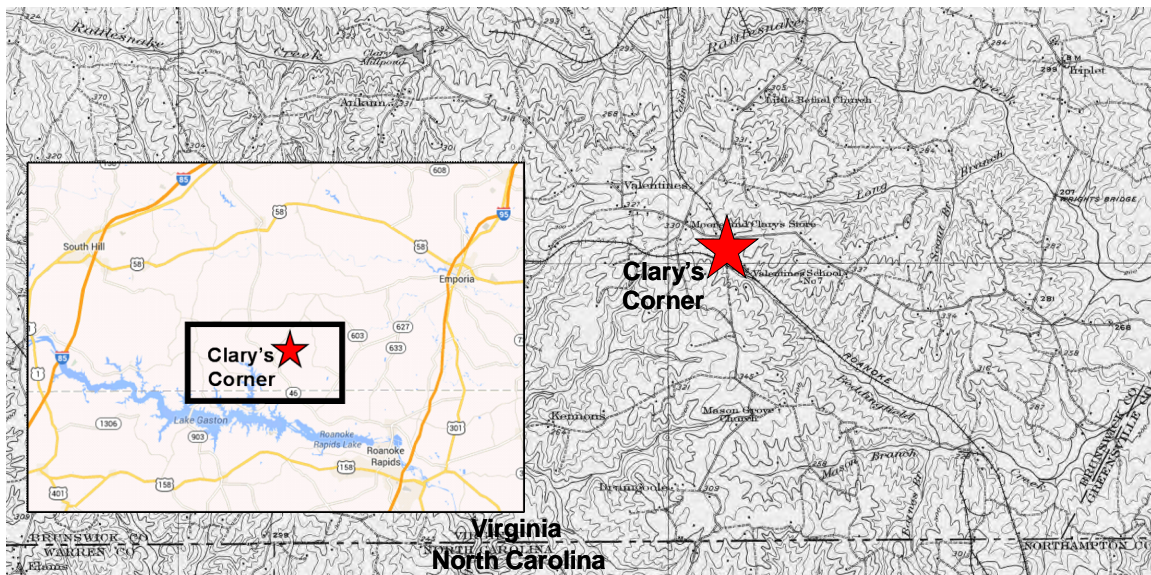
<sup>169</sup> *Brunswick County, Virginia Deeds, Book 15*, page 284.

<sup>170</sup> #13134 dated 11 Feb 2011.

*“I am searching the **HARMON** line in New Kent Co. and later in Brunswick Co. VA. En route to Kentucky, they migrated through N.C. in two waves: the first, just prior to 1790 and a second, around 1800. Family tradition (and census info.) places them in Rutherford Co. for over 10 years. From there, some moved to Warren Co. KY around 1802 and others to Adair Co. KY at or just after that time. Some may have gone on to Tennessee while others may well have remained in N.C., or turned south.”*

The post continues on, discussing facts about the family in New Kent County, Virginia as early as 1622. Skipping past some of that, we pick up his narrative around the 1750s:

*“At this same time the **Harmon** family is starting another settlement in Brunswick Co. VA. Where **George Harmon** and wife **Elizabeth (Langston) Harmon** had a farm in the southern end of the county, about three miles up from the North Carolina border and just west of the small settlement of ‘Clary’s Corner.’*



*Map highlighting the location of Clary’s Corner:  
north of Lake Gaston in the southeast corner of present-day Brunswick County, Virginia.<sup>171</sup>*

#### **“BRUNSWICK CO. VA**

*“The **HARMON** line in Brunswick Co. VA appears to have its strongest showing in the 1750 through 1800 period, when **George**’s farm seemed to serve as a frontier way-station for the New Kent Co. **Harmon** family. Brunswick Co. records show the following:*

*“1755 **George Harmon** signed as a witness on **Clary**’s acquisition of land.*

<sup>171</sup> The base for this map is the 1920 USGS White Plains, Virginia 15 minute Quadrangle.



*“1783 **George** is grantee on a deed acquiring land of his own. **Butler Harmon** and **Benskin Harmon** show up as witnesses on that deed.*

*“1792 **George** deeded away a portion of his land.*

*“NOTE: The Harmon farm is adjacent to a farm owned by **Thomas Bethshears**.*

*“1767 [sic – should this be 1797?] Brunswick tax rolls showed additional family members to include: **Micajah Harmon**, **William Harmon**, another **William Harmon**, and neighbors **Thomas Bethshears**, and **Thomas Bethshears, Jr.** (Note: this name is sometimes spelled **Brashears** or other variants).*

*“1797 **George Harmon** died in Brunswick Co. His will mentions a daughter **Rebecca Edmund(s)**, two sons **Lewis** and **George** (both under 21 in 1790 when the will was written) and other children (family tradition indicates that many had moved west through N.C. shortly before 1790). In his will, **George** named his wife and a friend **William James** as co-executors, and witnesses included **John Seword**, **Myhill Collier**, **John White** and **James Bough**.*

*“Note: **Thomas Bethshears** died in 1799 leaving his wife **Ruth** and at least one daughter named **Nancy**. All his children, in order were **Rachel** (b. 1759, m. **George Upchurch**), **Ruth**, **Tabitha** (b. 1767, m. **Thomas Moseley** 24 Nov. 1788), **Elizabeth**, **Patsy**, **Jessee**, **William**, **Molly**, **Sally** and **Nancy**.*

*“1799 **George Harmon** (age 35 or older [probably **George**’s nephew]) married **Nancy Bethshears** in Brunswick Co. Within a year they moved on through North Carolina to settle in Adair Co. KY by 1806. This migration included several grown males from the **Harmon** and even the **Bethshears** and **Pennington** families. (Note: **Isaac Harmon** later married **Rachel Pennington** in Adair Co.).*

*“The earlier pre-1790 migration from Brunswick (headed by **Micajah Harmon**) also contained a number of grown males and may have spent about 10 years in North Carolina (family tradition indicates in Rutherford Co. N.C.) before moving on to Warren Co. KY ca. 1802.”*

The post goes on, mainly in regard to the Harmons that settled in Adair County, Kentucky. However, a 24 Apr 2005 post (#471) by James Harmon (probably the same Jim Harmon of the above post) on the *Adair County Genealogy Forum* states that DNA testing showed he had a link to a German Harmon family that had settled in Shenandoah Valley, Virginia circa 1750: that likely means that the Harmons who had lived in Adair County were a distinct and unrelated clan from those who had lived in Warren County. But, without direct knowledge of the paper trail that leads to the Harmons of Shenandoah Valley, this information needs to be taken with a grain of salt.

Micajah Harmon is found in the 1790 and 1800 Census and in three deeds of Rutherford County, North Carolina. On 7 Jan 1798 he executed a deed to David Reavis.<sup>172</sup> A deed dated 7 Oct 1802 (which is very difficult to read) had Micajah Harmon as executor of an estate (for Fedinch?) selling a 100 acre parcel on the Main Broad River to Allen Doyle. The deed was witnessed by John Doyle and Jonathan Reavis.<sup>173</sup> And on 30 Oct 1802, Micajah sold 100 acres on the east side of Broad River to Benjamin Waldrop, with John Waldrop and Joshua Jonson as witnesses.<sup>174</sup> There is also a record of a Benskin Harmon marrying Elizabeth Doyle in Rutherford County on 19 Jun 1794. Based upon what we've already learned, circumstantially he would seem to be part of the same Harmon family as Micajah.

Since there is no deed showing how Micajah originally acquired his above noted properties, it is presumed that further research would reveal that he had received a grant from the State. But the above deeds and Census records corroborate the notion of a pre-1790 migration from Brunswick County, Virginia to Rutherford County, North Carolina, suggesting that there is a reasonable basis in fact for that information. And the last land transaction found for Micajah Harmon in Rutherford County fits well with his subsequent appearance in Warren County, Kentucky.

It was in 1803 when Micajah Harmon first appeared on the Warren County tax rolls, where he was taxed for 150 acres on the waters of Trammel Creek that were entered by and surveyed for A. Armstrong. He was also taxed for one male aged between 16 and 21 and three horses.<sup>175</sup>

In 1804 Micajah Harmon is found on the same Warren County property, but with seven horses and no males aged 16 to 21. A Lewis Harmon is found listed on the page that followed, but the record does not indicate the area in which he was living at the time.<sup>176</sup>

In 1805 Lewis Harmon married Nelly Williams in Warren County, Kentucky, with Micajah Harmon attesting that Nelly was over age 21.

On 21 Aug 1805, Micajah paid his Warren County taxes. He was living on the same property, and also paid tax for one male aged 16 to 21 and three horses. Listed side-by-side as having paid taxes on the same day was Lewis Harmon.<sup>177</sup>

On Aug 20 1806, Micajah was still living on the same property. His taxes were identical to those of 1805, except for the addition of being taxed for one black male. Once again, Lewis was taxed on the same day and they were listed side-by-side.<sup>178</sup>

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<sup>172</sup> *Rutherford County, North Carolina Deeds, Books 12-14*, pages 537 and 538.

<sup>173</sup> *Rutherford County, North Carolina Deeds, Books 18-19*, page 166.

<sup>174</sup> *Rutherford County, North Carolina Deeds, Books 22-23*, page 537.

<sup>175</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1803, List 1*, page 16, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>176</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1804, List 2*, pages 13 and 14, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>177</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1805, List 1*, page 8, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>178</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1806, List 2*, page 10, FHL microfilm #8255.



Circumstances were little changed in 1807, except that Micajah was taxed for ten less acres. He and Lewis were again listed side-by-side.<sup>179</sup>

In 1808 William Harmon appears for the first time in Warren County (but not in close proximity to Micajah), being taxed for one male over age 21 and one horse.<sup>180</sup> His presence in this tax roll lends further support to the notion that he was married in 1807 or 1808, as discussed in Chapter 4. Micajah is once again found on the 150 acres entered by Aaron Armstrong, but Lewis is no longer there.<sup>181</sup>

On 3 Jun 1809 Lewis, Micajah and George Harmon were found on the Warren County tax rolls, listed side-by-side. Micajah was still living on the Armstrong property.<sup>182</sup> Another George Harmon, as well as a Gideon Harmon, can be found on earlier tax lists, but not near where Micajah was living, so it is less likely that they were closely related. There is insufficient information to know whether these records for George Harmon describe the brother of Lewis Harmon or a different man.

Initially, it might seem likely that the George Harmon from the 1809 tax list was a son of Micajah's; if this were true he would have had at most two young children in the 1810 Census (unless he had married a widow, though no Warren County marriage record is found for him). But the 1810 Census shows George's household included five children under age 10, so this George Harmon was most likely Micajah's brother, not his son. Appearing in Warren County records for the first time in the 1810 Census, and living three households away was Benskin Harmon. Living next to him was Micajah. Lewis Harmon is not found in the 1810 Census for Warren County.

Subsequent Warren County tax rolls find a number of Harmons that remained in Warren County. In 1815 when Allen County was formed, Micajah is then found in Allen County. By 1810, the Harmons of direct interest to us were no longer living in Kentucky. But the preceding analysis supports the earlier information from Arlis Harmon; at least that Lewis, George and Micajah were brothers and likely were sons of George Harmon of Brunswick County, Virginia.

Trying to clearly untangle the mess of how members of this family inter-relate and who their ancestors were is well outside the scope of this book. Descendants interested in learning more about the Harmons of Warren County and Allen County, Kentucky should review Western Kentucky University's *MS 153*, a collection of material from the estate of Arlis O. Harmon. Specifically, *Box 1*, Folders 3 and 8 relate to Harmon family genealogy. Similar material may be on hand at the Allen County, Kentucky Historical Society Library in Scottsville, Kentucky.

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<sup>179</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1807, List 2*, page 10, FHL microfilm #8255.

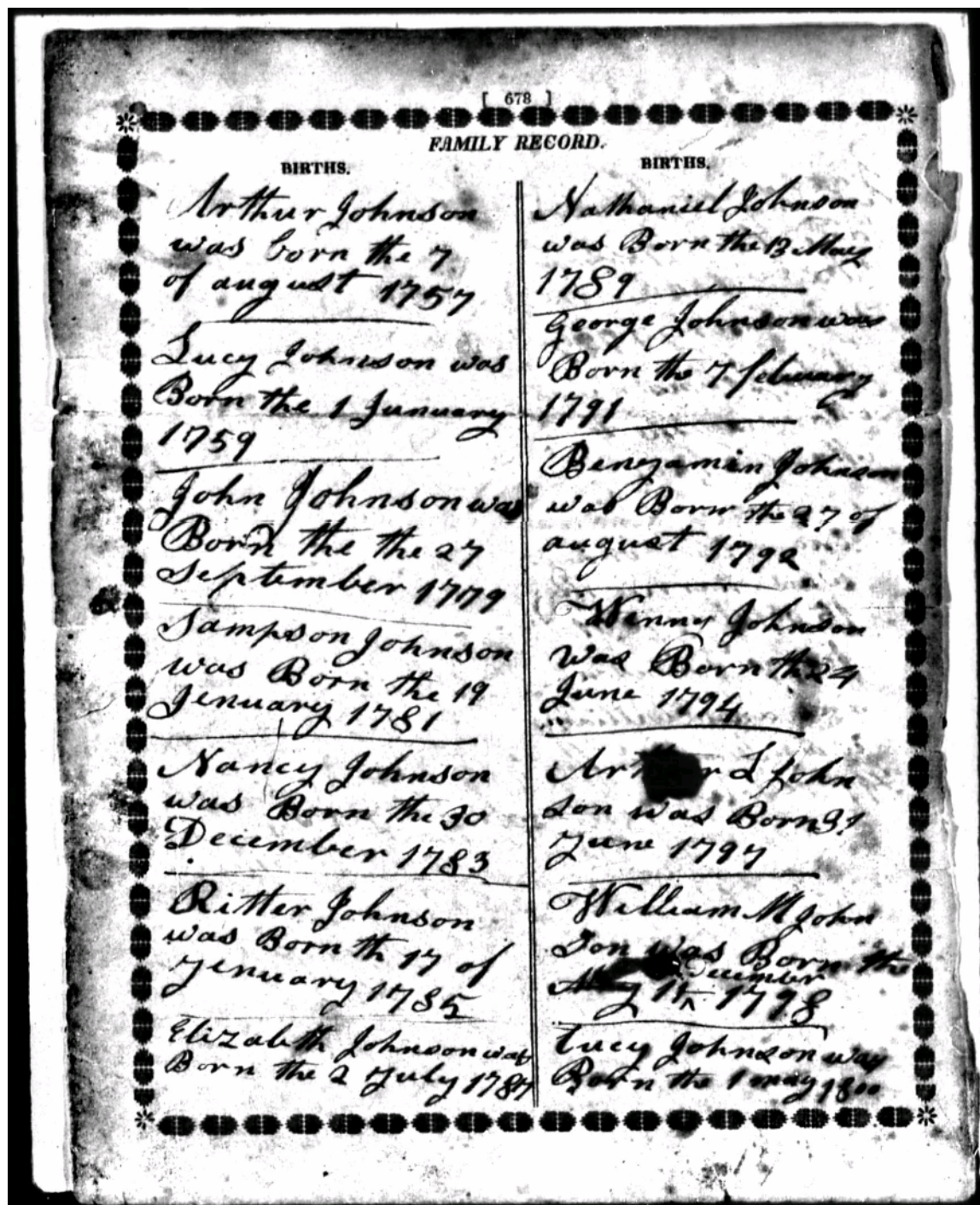
<sup>180</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1808, List 1*, page 17, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>181</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1808, List 1*, page 19, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>182</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1809, List 1*, page 33, FHL microfilm #8255.

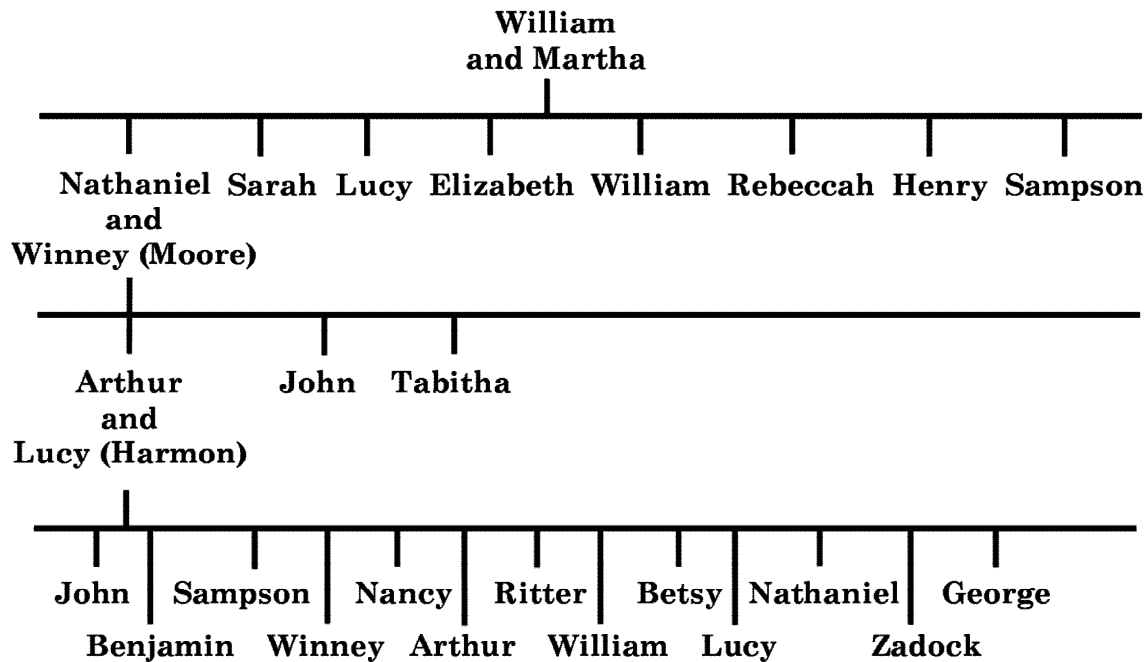
## THE JOHNSONS

Ritter, Sampson and George Johnson all married spouses with the surname of Williams. And there is indisputable proof that these Johnsons were siblings: they were all children of Arthur Johnson and Lucy Harmon, though this does not prove that their three Williams spouses were also siblings.



The family record shown above was transcribed by Arthur Johnson around 1823 from an earlier family bible. It was found in Arthur's Revolutionary War pension application (file number W10152), the transcription of pertinent files from which will be presented later.<sup>183</sup> But first let's review the known facts about Arthur and his family prior to his initial pension deposition in 1818.

## THE WILLIAM JOHNSON FAMILY



According to Judith Svoboda, the Johnson line (which was often spelled Johnston before they settled in Illinois) can be traced back to William Johnson of Brunswick County, Virginia, the area from whence also came many of the Harmons that settled in early Indiana Territory. William's will was proven on 27 Feb 1759, and it named his wife Martha and the following children: Nathaniel, Sarah, Lucy, Elizabeth, William, Rebecca, Henry and Sampson. His widow Martha and his son Nathaniel were named as executors of his estate, and in August 1761 Nathaniel was appointed guardian of his brother Henry and, in the following year, for his brother Sampson. In that same year Elias Morgan was appointed guardian of Rebecca and William.<sup>184,185</sup>

Nathaniel died a few years later, with his will being written on 13 Oct 1761 when he was "very Sick and weak;" it was proven on 22 Mar 1762. In it, he bequeathed 150 acres

<sup>183</sup> The transcription of three of these documents was done by Will Graves as found at revwarapps.org. The remainder was transcribed by the author from Ancestry.Com's *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900* (2010).

<sup>184</sup> *The Descendants of Arthur and Lucy (Harmon) Johnson: Some Speculations* by Judith Trummel Svoboda (1996), pages 1 through 3.

<sup>185</sup> *Brunswick County Will Books, Volume 1: Will Books 2 and 3, 1739-1769 and 1783-1785* by Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr. (1997), page 105 (Will Book 3, page 597 [283]).



adjoining Owen Myrick to his son Arthur, his son John received the balance of the land and plantation where he had been living at the time, and his daughter Tabitha received 50 acres on Quarrel Swamp that abutted Henry Johnson and Jeconias Randle. The balance of the estate was sold to pay debts, with any money remaining to go to his wife “Winney.” Witnesses included Owen Myrick, John Ledbetter and Herod Clary.<sup>186</sup> (The land owned by Jeconias Randle is probably the 250 acres from his father’s estate that Nathaniel sold shortly before his death to Jeconias *Randolph* of King William County.)<sup>187</sup>

Also according to Svoboda, the will of Winney’s mother, Mary Moore, named six married daughters: Mourning Moore, Anne Woolsey, Tabitha Howard, Alse Nanny, Mary Ledbetter, and Winney Johnson. The the wife of Nathaniel Johnson is believed to have been Winney Moore.

The last record of Arthur Johnson in Brunswick County, Virginia was in 1779. That was the year that he married Lucy Harmon (on 2 Jan), as well as the year in which Winney Johnson and her son Arthur sold 300 acres of land adjoining Myrick (located on the Little Fork of Rattlesnake Creek where it joined Little Rattlesnake Creek) to Thomas Claiborne for £2000 (on 10 Nov). Witnesses included Cary James, Michall Singleton, James Harrison, John Nanny, and Lewis Hicks.<sup>188</sup> With Arthur only having received 150 acres from his father’s estate, the question is where did the other 150 acres come from? Svoboda points out that in 1779 a Winniford Johnson petitioned the Virginia House of Delegates for compensation for the death of her son John to frostbite, evidently while in New Jersey. John’s death would explain where the additional 150 acres had come from.

The period during the Revolutionary War and after is covered a bit later when we review Arthur’s pension for his service during the war, so we’ll skip that for now. In the 1790 Census for Rutherford County, North Carolina there is a reasonable match for what is known of Arthur’s family. At that time, he was enumerated within the jurisdiction of the 7<sup>th</sup> Militia Company.

The following is partial land entry and deed research for Rutherford County that appears to match well with Arthur’s family. Further research into other Rutherford County records and those of Arthur’s neighbors would likely create a clearer picture of the Johnsons in that county, but the following deeds should give a sufficient degree of confidence that they were executed by the Arthur Johnson that is of interest to us. In these records the surname is always spelled Johnston, and that spelling is retained in the deed abstracts that follow.

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<sup>186</sup> *Brunswick County Will Books, Volume 2: Will Books 4 and 5 (in part), 1761-1780* by Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr. (1997), page 40 (*Will Book 4, Part 2*, page 195 [274]).

<sup>187</sup> *Brunswick County Deeds, Book 6*, page 501.

<sup>188</sup> *Brunswick County Will Books, Volume 1: Will Books 2 and 3, 1739-1769 and 1783-1785* by Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr. (1997), page 40 (*Will Book 2*, page 224 [287]).

On 7 Dec 1779, only a month after he and his mother sold their Brunswick County property, **Arthur Johnston** entered 200 acres on Flick Branch of Camp Creek in Rutherford County.<sup>189</sup>

On 15 Jul 1789, **Arthur Johnston** entered 50 acres on both sides of Second Broad River. The property was bordered by land surveyed for **Nate Johnston** and his own lines.<sup>190</sup>

On 21 Nov 1792, **Arthur Johnston** entered an additional 50 acres on both sides of Second Broad River. The property was bordered by land surveyed for **Matthew** (Martha?) **Johnston** and his own lines.<sup>191</sup>

On 13 Apr 1794, **Arthur Johnston** entered 12 acres on Dunkins Branch, waters of Second Broad River bordered by his old survey.<sup>192</sup>

On 17 Apr 1795, **Arthur Johnston** acquired from **Thomas Murrus** for £106 100 acres in Rutherford County that had been patented to **Stephen Shelton** in 1772 and which abutted **Carver** and **Wilkins**.<sup>193</sup> Witnesses were **Charles Wilkins** and **Richard Wilkins**. Also on that same day, **Arthur Johnston** sold to **Elizabeth Huddleston** for £140 paid to “the said **Frederick Linch**” (not elsewhere named in the deed, so quite possibly a clerical error) a tract of 175 acres on Second Broad River at Williams Ford, a property abutting **John Johnston** and **George Black**.<sup>194</sup>

On 13 Feb 1796, Arthur sold 175 acres located on Second Broad River near Williams ford (a part of **Peter Dunkins** old survey) to **Wooten Harris** for £100. Witnesses were **Alexander Grant** and **Henry Johnston**.<sup>195</sup> (**Wooten Harris** was another transplant from the area of Brunswick County, Virginia, having lived near the Meherrin River.)<sup>196</sup>

A year later, on 14 Jul 1797, **John Coxsey Johnston** sold to **Wooten Harris** for £20 a tract of land containing about 35 acres on “timbertree branch.” Witnesses were **Arthur Johnston** and **Thomas Marlow**.<sup>197</sup> The next day, **Arthur Johnston** sold to **Wooten Harris** for £160 50 acres located on both sides of Second Broad River which abutted

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<sup>189</sup> *Abstracts of Land Entries: Rutherford County, NC 1779-1795* by Dr. A. B. Pruitt (1989), page 13 (book ?, original page 35, item 176).

<sup>190</sup> *Abstracts of Land Entries: Rutherford County, NC 1779-1795* by Dr. A. B. Pruitt (1989), page 83 (book ?, original page 142, item 1008 [695]).

<sup>191</sup> *Abstracts of Land Entries: Rutherford County, NC 1779-1795* by Dr. A. B. Pruitt (1989), page 124 (book ?, original page 76, item 1456 [337]).

<sup>192</sup> *Abstracts of Land Entries: Rutherford County, NC 1779-1795* by Dr. A. B. Pruitt (1989), page 142 (book ?, original page 120, item 1665 [546]).

<sup>193</sup> *Rutherford County, North Carolina Deeds, Books M-Q*, pages 524 and 525.

<sup>194</sup> *Rutherford County, North Carolina Deeds, Books M-Q*, pages 349 and 350.

<sup>195</sup> *Rutherford County, North Carolina Deeds, Book 7-9*, pages 408 to 410.

<sup>196</sup> *Descendants of Isaac Harris* by Garda M. Hodgson (2006), Part III, Descendants of Wooten Harris.

<sup>197</sup> *Rutherford County, North Carolina Deeds, Book 7-9*, page 410.

**Martha Johnston, John Johnston and Wooten Harris.**<sup>198</sup> Two weeks earlier, **Arthur Johnston** had entered 100 acres on First Broad River.<sup>199</sup>

On 14 Jan 1799, **Charles Wilkins** and **Arthur Johnston** entered 300 acres on both sides of Beaverdam Creek. The property was bordered by other properties owned by both men.<sup>200</sup>

On 6 Mar 1800, Arthur's eldest son, **John Johnston**, married **Mary Reavis** in Rutherford County; **John**, together with **John Doyle**, posted bond on 17 Feb 1800. A month later, in Mar 1800, **Arthur Johnston** and **John Johnston** sold to **John Hamrick** for £100 150 acres on the west side of First Broad River, which was part of a patent by **Stephen Shelton** that adjoined the property of **Wilkins**. **Richard Wright** and **Linck Hamrick** were witnesses.

We the subscribers are jointly & severally held and  
firmly bound to His Excellency Benjamin Smith Esq  
Governor of this state in office in the sum of five  
hundred pounds to be void on Condition that whereas  
John Johnston have made application & obtained  
Marriage License to be celebrated between him and  
Mary Reavis of said County now if there shall not  
appear hereafter any legal reasons to obstruct or  
marriage then this obligation to be void & of none  
effect otherwise Remain in force Virtue in Law  
17th Feb 1800  
John Johnston  
John Doyle

Rutherford County, North Carolina bond for the marriage of John Johnston and Mary Reavis.

<sup>198</sup> Rutherford County, North Carolina Deeds, Book 7-9, pages 407 and 408.

<sup>199</sup> Abstracts of Land Entries: Rutherford County, NC 1795-1803 by Dr. A. B. Pruitt (1989), page 84 (book ?, original page 141, item 1187).

<sup>200</sup> Abstracts of Land Entries: Rutherford County, NC 1795-1803 by Dr. A. B. Pruitt (1989), page 109 (book ?, original page 179, item 1498).



The above deeds and marriages would appear to place **Arthur Johnston** living near his grandmother, **Martha Johnston**, two likely uncles, **John Coxsey Johnston** and **Henry Johnston**, and his son, **John Johnston**. The last record of **Arthur Johnson** in Rutherford County is found in early 1801, where **Arthur Johnston**, as administrator of the estate of **William Ledbetter**, sold two tracts of land; one granted to **Arthur Johnston** by patent on 16 Dec 1799, and the other granted by patent to **William Ledbetter** 18 Nov 1800. Abutting properties were owned by **Charles Wilkins**, **Peter Willis**, **Mrs. Combes**, and **Kirbo**. (Arthur's aunt, **Mary Ledbetter**, may have been related to **William Ledbetter**. The presence of **Charles Wilkins'** property clearly places this property in the same general neighborhood as the other properties.)

Census records of Arthur's children give us a high degree of confidence that the Arthur Johnston found in the above records of Rutherford County, North Carolina is the Arthur Johnson of interest to us. The 1860 Census shows the following children of his were born in North Carolina: Ritter (Johnson) Williams in 1785, George W. Johnson in 1791, Benjamin Johnson in 1792 and Arthur L. Johnson in 1797. His children Lucy (Johnson) Moutray and Zadock Johnson were born in Kentucky (about 1800 and 1802, respectively, according to Census records). So let's see what records can be found for Arthur and his family in Kentucky. (It is worthwhile to note here that there was an Arthur Johnson living in Madison County, Kentucky in 1800, but that Arthur Johnson married Mary Turpin there on 5 Jul 1798, so he was not the Arthur of interest to us.)

As noted earlier, on 9 Oct 1801 John Clark Williams and Arthur Johnson posted a bond for John's marriage in Warren County, Kentucky to Ritter Johnson. So it is quite clear that Arthur's family migrated from Rutherford County, North Carolina to Warren County, Kentucky by around mid-1801.

On 6 May 1802, Arthur Johnson was taxed for 400 acres of second rate land on Bays Fork in Warren County, Kentucky (in an area that is now part of Allen County), for which he had made the original land entry. He also paid tax on one white male over age 21, one white male between the ages of 16 and 21, and one horse. Listed after him was Jno Johnson, who paid tax for one white male over age 21 and two horses.<sup>201</sup>

An attempt was made to find and map the land entry or subsequent survey for the property noted above. If the property had been acquired via a Virginia military warrant from Arthur's military service, it should have been possible to find record of that. But no record was found, and Arthur arrived in the area after most of the other entries based upon military warrants had already occurred. That would mean that the property was probably acquired via a South of Green River Land Grant, but his name is not recorded there either. The likely scenario is that Arthur had been assigned someone else's grant, but without that person's name, finding record of where Arthur had lived is daunting. Such records are only indexed by the name of the person receiving the grant, not by the assignee(s), the person who had the property surveyed or the person who received the

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<sup>201</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1802, List 2, page 17, FHL microfilm #8255.*

patent. Record of the above property is likely buried in one of dozens of grant books at the Kentucky Secretary of State's office.

On 27 Jul 1803, Arthur Johnson was again taxed for the same property. He also paid tax for one male over age 21 and one horse. Listed immediately after him, and paying tax on the same day, were John Johnson and Sampson Johnson. Both men paid a poll tax for white males over age 21, and John was also taxed for one horse.<sup>202</sup>

In 1804 Arthur Johnson was taxed for 200 acres of third rate land on Bays Fork, one white male over age 21 and one horse.<sup>203</sup>

On 4 Sep 1805 in Warren County, Kentucky, Arthur Johnson gave consent for his daughter, Betsy, to marry John Turner. Sampson Johnson posted bond and was a witness. On 19 Jul 1806 both Arthur and Lucy Johnson gave consent for their daughter, Elizabeth, to marry John Langston, suggesting that the marriage to John Turner had not taken place.

On 20 Jul 1807, Arthur Johnson was a chain carrier for a survey of 400 acres on Bays Fork for Henry Moore (quite possibly a relative of Arthur's mother). This appears to be the last record of him in Warren County, Kentucky.<sup>204</sup> From there he went to Knox County, Indiana Territory, in an area that would later become the southern portion of Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana.

On page 835 of Gil Stormont's *History of Gibson County, Indiana* (1914), in a biography of George Washington Johnson (a grandson of George and Anna [Williams] Johnson), it states that the Johnson Family came to Indiana around 1807. And in James T. Tartt's *History of Gibson County, Indiana* (1884) on page 172 it is stated that they "came to Indiana Territory in 1806, and settled on Indian Camp Creek." The latter statement appears to be contradicted by the survey just noted and the 1807 tax records for Warren County, where Arthur, Sampson and John Johnson were listed side-by-side. Each man paid the poll tax, and Arthur and Sampson also were taxed for one horse each.<sup>205</sup> The date that the tax was collected is not given, but it likely was in April or May, but perhaps as late as August. Arthur and his two sons were likely ready to travel to Indiana after the fall harvest, so they would have arrived there in late 1807 or early 1808, as they would have needed time to have ground cleared in order to plant their crops in the spring.

The first record of Arthur Johnson in Indiana Territory was at the County Clerk election held in Gibson County on 27 Mar 1813, which is also the only currently known instance that puts him together with Simon Williams at the same time and place. Since he is not found in the 1810 Census for Warren County, Kentucky and the 1810 Census for Indiana Territory was destroyed, it is most likely that he was in Indiana Territory prior to the 1810 Census.

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<sup>202</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1803, List 1*, page 17, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>203</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1804, List 2*, page 16, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>204</sup> *Land Grants of Warren/Allen County, Kentucky* by Adrian Jeffers (1997), pages 102 and 159.

<sup>205</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1807, List 2*, page 13, FHL microfilm #8255.

That brings us to the initial Revolutionary War pension application for Arthur Johnson, which was filed in 1818. It gives a good accounting of his whereabouts from that point forward:

*“The state of Indiana, Gibson County*

*“On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D. 1818 before me one of the Judges in and for the Gibson Circuit Court and State aforesaid Personally appeared **Arthur Johnson** aged 61 years a resident of said County and State aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the provision made by the Act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval services of the US in the revolutionary war – States that he enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the Virginia troops in 1775 – for one year by **Captain Richard Mead** commanded by **Colonel Woodford** and **General Stephens** – that he served during the year and was discharged at Williamsburg in Virginia. And that he served the full [term]. [A]fter his discharge on an expedition as Adjutant to a Regiment of Virginia Volunteers commanded by **Colonel Frederick Mackling** [sic] and **General Nelson**. That afterwards he served as a Lieutenant in a Company of Volunteer Militia under the command of **Colonel Thomas Branham** and **General Green** [sic]; that he was engaged in the war from the first time he enlisted in the service of the US in 1775 until the close of the war or most of the time; and was in the following Battles: at the Long Bridge, the Siege of Norfolk, at King's Mountain, at Ramsour's Mill, at Prince's Fort, at the Hanging Rock, the Siege of Ninety Six and that he was honorably discharged from the Service, and that he is in reduced circumstances and in need of the assistance of his Country for support and that he has no other evidence now in his power to substantiate his claims or proof of his services.*

*S/Arthur Johnson*

*“Subscribed and sworn to before me this the day and year aforesaid.*

*S/ Jesse Emmerson {Seal}”*

The application was resubmitted two years later in 1820, adding information about Arthur's net worth at the time:

*“Gibson Circuit Court October term A.D1820*

*“District of Indiana, Gibson County*

*“On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord 1820, personally appeared in open court (it being a court of record created so by the Constitution and laws of this State) for the County and State aforesaid **Arthur Johnston** [sic] aged 63 years on the seventh day of August last, resident within said District who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath declare that he served in the Revolutionary War as follows, to wit: that he enlisted as a regular Soldier in the Revolutionary War in September in the year of our Lord 1775 under **Captain Richard Mead** in the second Virginia Regiment commanded by **Colonel Woodford** of the Virginia line in Brunswick County Virginia and continued in service 12 months and was discharged at Williamsburg Virginia and afterwards*

*off and on in the Service as a volunteer and militia man for about four years and was in the following Battles, to wit: at the long or great Bridge Virginia in the fall or winter of 1775 and at the Battle of Ramsour's Mill North Carolina, at Prince's Fort in the edge of South Carolina, Battle of King's Mountain, Siege of Ninety Six, South Carolina and the date of my original Declaration for the purpose of procuring a pension was made on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 1818 and a pension certificate granted me bearing the date of the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 1819 numbered 12891. And I do solemnly affirm that I was a resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time, by gift, sale or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "an act provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the Revolutionary War" passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me, any property or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.*

*"A list of **Arthur Johnston's** property, debts due you and demands, to wit, one horse, three head of cattle, 21 head of hogs, two acres, one plow, three old hoes, one old sprouting hoe, and I have debts owing to me to the amount of about \$10 to the best of my recollection and debts which I owe to sundry persons amount to about \$30 and two old broken ovens and some old cupboard furniture, one pair of Horse guns, three clevises, one pair double trees, and I have the following family, to wit, my wife aged 61 years the first day of January last and very sickly and infirm and has been for about 20 years, my son **William Johnston** aged 22 years next January who has been sickly and not able to do for himself from his infancy, **Zadock Johnston** aged 18 last April and my occupation but weakly and infirm and not able to do hard labor and further this deponent saith not.*

*S/ (**Legrow**) **Arthur Johnson***

*"And the court after examination are of opinion that the property of the said **Arthur Johnston** not saying anything about the Debts owing by him in due to him amount to about one hundred and twenty dollars."*

By 1824 Arthur had moved to Posey County, seemingly in order to be closer to his namesake son, Arthur L. Johnson. It appears, at that period in time, that it was necessary for him to reapply for benefits after changing jurisdictions (all spelling as found the original document):

*"Declaration in order to be restored to the Pension list under the act of the first of March 1823.*

*"State of Indiana*

*"Posey County § On the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord 1824 Personly [sic] appeared in open court being a court of record for the County of Posey & State aforesaid created as such by the Constitution and laws of this State, **Arthur Johnson** resident in said county aged sixty seven years on the day of instant who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following*

*declaration, in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of Congress of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 1818 and the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1820. That he the said **Arthur Johnson** enlisted for the term of one year on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year 1775 in the State of Virginia in the company commanded by **Captain Richard Mead** in the Regiment commanded by **Colo Woodford** in the line of the State of Virginia and called the Second Virginia Regiment on Continental establishment. That he continued to serve in said corps until the month of October or last of September 1776 when he was discharged from said service in Williamsburgh, State of Virginia, that his name has been placed on the pension list and \_\_\_\_ therefrom on account of his property.*

*“And in pursuance of the act of the first of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was resident citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not since that time by gift, sale, or in any manner disposed of my property or any part thereof so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an act of Congress entitled an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts, or debts due me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the Schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed.*

*“My occupation is farmer but not able to pursue it in consequence of my infirmity. My wife is living and aged about sixty five, but she had not been able to pursue her common labor for twenty years or upwards. Debts owing by me, viz, **Robert Tackwell** \$6, **Jesse Emmerson** \$3, **David Davis** \$3, **Aaron Endicott** \$1.12 ½, **George Johnson** \$10, **Thomas Endicott** \$7, **Thomas Travis** 50 cts. There is nothing due me to my knowledge. The following is all the property owned by me, viz, one horse beast, one sow and seven pigs one small plough, five old weeding hoes, two old bake ovens, four old hens, some cupboard furnature, one small chopping ax, one mi\_\_ ax, and one pair of horse geirs (?). The following is the changes in my property since my former schedule, two cow beasts killed for beef for the use of the family, one cow and calf dead, one cow and calf sold, to pay a debt to **David Davis**. Two hogs mentioned in my former schedule were for the use of my family and one died, except what is mentioned in my above list.*

*[signed] “**Arthur Johnson**”*

In the 1830 Census for Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana, Arthur Johnson is living in a household of two, side-by-side amongst the following neighboring households:

- Robert Williams, b. 1790-1800, household of 10,
- William Harmon (husband of Simon Williams’ daughter Polly), b. 1780-1790, household of 10,
- Lewis “Johnston” (son of Arthur Johnson), b 1790-1800, household of 7,
- Arthur “Johnston,” b. 1750-1760, household of 2, and
- George Williams (son of Simon Williams), b. 1780-1790, household of 7.



It was again necessary to have his pension transferred when he moved to White County, Illinois in 1838 to be nearer to his children:

*“Application for a Transfer*

*“State of Illinois, White County*

*“On the 27<sup>th</sup> day of June 1838 before the subscriber a Justice of the Peace for the said County of White personally appeared **Arthur Johnson** who on his oath declares that he is the same person who formerly belonged to the Company commanded by **Captain Richard Mead** – in the Regiment commanded by **Colonel Woodford** in the Service of the United States, that his name was placed on the pension Roll of the State of Indiana from whence he has lately removed – that he now resides in the State of Illinois (White County) where he intends to remain and wishes his pension to be there payable in future; the following are his reasons for removing from Indiana to Illinois – to be convenient to his children and grandchildren; that they may support him in his old age. S/ **Arthur Johnson** Sworn and subscribed the day and year above written before me.*

*S/ **Ja. Ratcliff, J. P.**”*

After Arthur Johnson’s death on 16 Oct 1839, Lucy (Harmon) Johnson was living with her eldest son, John Johnson. On 15 Dec 1840 she claimed a pension, as follows:

*“Declaration*

*“In order to obtain the benefit of the 3<sup>rd</sup> section of the act of Congress of the 4 July 1836 and the joint Resolution of the 7 July 1838.*

*“State of Illinois White County §*

*“On this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1840 personally appeared before the judge of the Court of Probate for the County of White and state aforesaid, being by law a court of record. **Lucy Johnson** aged eighty one years and eleven months, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 4 – 1836 and the joint Resolution of July 7 1838 – that she is the widow of **Arthur Johnson** who entered the service in the Revolutionary War in Brunswick County State of Virginia a private in the regular army. She thinks under **Captain Mead** about July 1777 and served one year until July 1778. [F]or this service he was allowed a pension of eight dollars per month and was inscribed on the Pension list Roll of the State of Indiana. She further declares that she was married to **Arthur Johnson** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 1779 and that after their marriage he husband served several tours in the militia. [T]hat he served one tour under **Captain Woodson** of eight months, commencing in July 1780 a part of the time was Lieutenant in said Company under **Genl Green[e]** . [H]e entered the service in Rutherford County in North Carolina, but served principally in South Carolina. [H]e was in the siege of ninety six, was in the Battles of Sumpters defeat, Hanging Rock and Rugelys Mills and that the said **Arthur Johnson** departed this life on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 1839 and that she has remained a widow ever since that period as will more fully appear by*

*reference to the proof hereto annexed. Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written before me.*

*“Lucy her X mark **Johnson***

*“**Jas Ratcliff, J P**”*

On 15 Jul 1843 she had her pension transferred to Posey County, Indiana. She lived until some time around the summer of 1845, when her pension certificate was returned to the War Department.<sup>206</sup>

*“State of Indiana*

*“Posey County On this fifteenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty three personally appeared before the subscriber Justice of the Peace in and for said County **Lucy Johnson** a resident of the State of Indiana in the County of Posey aged eighty four years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made in the act of Congress passed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1843 granting pensions to widows of persons who served in the Revolutionary War. That she is the widow of **Arthur Johnson** who was a private in the Army of the Revolution and served as set forth in his original Declaration now on file at the War Office of the United States. That she was a pensioner under the act of July 7<sup>th</sup> 1838 or the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1836 on the Illinois Roll at the rate of forty dollars per annum. [T]hat her certificate for drawing pension is now in Illinois. She further declares that she is still a widow and I **James Lafferty** the acting Justice in the case do hereby declare the above named **Lucy Johnson** is personally known to me and I believe her to be the widow of the aforesaid **Arthur Johnson**.*

*“Sworn and subscribed this fifteenth day of July in year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty three before me **James Lafferty** Justice of the Peace.*

*“[signed] **Lucy her X mark Johnson***

*“Attest*

***James Lafferty***

***Elizabeth Waters**”*

Also included with the above declaration was a deposition signed by Heneritta (Johnson) Williams and Benjamin Johnson stating that Lucy Johnson had “been personally known to them for many years past,” though neither stated any direct relationship to her.

Of special interest in the file is the deposition by Legrow Bennett (shown on the following page), where on 26 Feb 1840 he attests to the fact that Arthur and Lucy were married in Brunswick County, Virginia around Jan 1779.

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<sup>206</sup> A monument erected by the Johnson Re-Union Association in 1900 at Johnson Cemetery, Enfield, White County, Illinois incorrectly states that she died on 12 Sep 1840.

State of Illinois White County S.S.  
 Be it known that before me Solomon Vories  
 a Justice of the Peace in and for the County  
 aforesaid personally appeared Legrow Bennett  
 aged seventy five years - a credible witness  
 and made oath as follows - that he was born  
 and raised in Brunswick County in the State  
 of Virginia - where he was well acquainted with  
 Arthur Johnson, and his wife Lucy - whose name  
 before her marriage was Lucy Clarkson - that  
 in January 1779 the news in the neighbour-  
 hood was that said Arthur and Lucy were  
 about to be married - that several persons  
 to his knowledge went to the wedding and  
 when they returned said that they were  
 married - that he has been well acquaint-  
 ed ever since that time with said Arthur  
 & his wife - and verily believes that they  
 were lawfully married - altho he was  
 not present at the marriage  
 Sworn and subscribed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February  
 1840  
 Legrow to and subscribed Legrow <sup>his</sup> Bennett  
 before me this 26<sup>th</sup> day  
 of February 1840  
 Solomon Vories J.P.

1840 Deposition by Legrow Bennett.

On pages 17 to 21 of *Illinois, White County genealogical records* by Illinois Organization, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (1946), is a section entitled Arthur Johnson and His Family. It has this to say about Arthur Johnson (minor errors have been edited out):

"After the Revolution [Arthur] moved to Kentucky, and about 1806 came to what  
 is now Gibson Co., Indiana, about 1820 came to White Co., Ill.

*“Died just over the line in Wayne Co., Ill. At the home of his son-in-law, **Robert Cates**, Oct. 16, 1839 and was buried on the Cates farm near the present village of Mill Shoals.*

*“On Monday Sept. 12, 1898, his remains were taken up by his descendants and reinterred in the Johnson Cemetery in White Co., Ill., four and one half miles east of Enfield, where a beautiful monument has been erected commemorating his services as a soldier in the war of the Revolution.*

*“The inscription on the west side of the monument lists the following Battles he had a part in,*

*“Valley Forge, Brandywine, Paoli, Germantown, Stony Point, Eutaw Springs and Yorktown.*

*“(W.N. [sic: H.] **Johnson** says that the death date should be Oct. 16, 1839, the description on the monument gives it as of Dec. 14, 1839.)”*

The preceding citation came from a letter dated 11 Oct 1914 by William Johnson of Lancaster, [Wabash County,] Illinois. His full name was William Harrison Johnson, great grandson of Arthur Johnson by his son, John H. Johnson, and grandson, Martin D. Johnson.



On Pages 436 and 437 of *History of the Disciples of Christ in Illinois, 1819-1914* by Nathaniel S. Haynes, A. M. (1915), is an account of the Seven Mile Prairie Church, which gives us some insight into the people that helped to found it and of their early roots in Gibson County, Indiana:

*“Seven Mile (Carmi).*

*“Organized 1839, by **Moses Goodwin**; present membership, 90: value of property, \$800: Bible-school enrollment, 70.*



*“This church, located six miles northwest of Carmi, was one of the pioneer churches of White County. The following is a copy of a paper that was written by one of the original members, Dr. **Martin Johnson**: ‘The Christian Church at Seven-mile Prairie was organized on the 24th day of February, A. D. 1839, by Elder **Moses Goodwin**, upon the following constitution; to-wit: ‘We take the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the only rule of our faith and practice.’ ” Those who then signed this agreement were **Arthur Johnson, Lucy Johnson, John Johnson, Polly Johnson, A. L. Johnson, Luranah Johnson, Martin Johnson** and **Comfort Johnson**. These eight people and baptized believers who later affiliated with them came from the Old Union Church of the Christian Denomination in Gibson County, Ind. Another entry, on August 21, of records show that there were twenty-eight members, that **Moses Goodwin** had moved to the Prairie and united with the church, and that he and **A. L. Johnson** were elders of the congregation, with **John** and **James M. Johnson**, deacons. Hon. **W. H. Johnson**, of Lancaster, Ill., writing of these people and this church, says:*

*“My great-grandfather, **Arthur Johnson**, and wife, and my grandfather, **John Johnson**, and his wife, original or charter members of the Seven Mile Prairie Church, had been charter members of the Old Union Church in Indiana, which organized over one hundred years ago. About the time the church in Seven Mile Prairie was organized, Elder **Moses Goodwin** succeeded in bringing Old Union Church, as a whole, into what was called the Campbell Reformation. **Elijah Goodwin**, whose mother (then the wife of my Grandfather **Johnson**), brother **Moses** and two sisters (Mrs. **Luranah Johnson** and Mrs. **Axie Crabtree**) lived in the Prairie, often visited the neighborhood and preached here. **Moses Goodwin** and **Fenton Lumm**, both natural orators and splendid preachers, lived in Seven Mile Prairie and their labors took in all the surrounding country. My uncle, **Arthur Johnson**, one of the first elders, was an able preacher and a strong defender of the faith, but never became an evangelist. He conducted three public discussions successfully. **Frank Murdock, S. F. Rogers, Barton W. Kello** and **Isaac Kello** were faithful ministers sent out by Old Seven Mile Prairie Church.’*

*“There have been three chapels. The first of logs, with a long shed on the south side, built on the land of **John Johnson**. The second, a frame, near the east end of the bridge over the creek. The third stands on the Carmi and Mill Shoals Road nearly a mile east of the second house.*

*“This church has contributed much to the production of other congregations. Its members held clearly defined convictions of Christian truth and were filled with the spirit of conquest.”*



## THE JOURNEYS

The parents of Audra Journey would seem to be well documented, principally by Carroll O. and Gloria M. Cox. *Posey County, Indiana Bible Records* (no author or publication date – found in the genealogy files of Mt. Vernon, Indiana Alexandrian Library, possibly by Carroll O. and/or Gloria M. Cox) tells us the following:

### “JOURNEY FAMILY

“ <b>Joseph Journey</b> was born in the year of our lord 1755	
“ <b>Margaret Magee Journey</b> was born	Nov 18 1757
“Children: <b>Mary Journey</b> , dau	May 6 1775
“ <b>Anna Journey</b> , dau	Mar 6 1776
“ <b>William Journey</b> , son	Dec 11 1783
“ <b>Sarah Journey</b> , dau	May 10 1789
“ <b>Elevoe Journey</b> , dau	Oct 10 1791
“ <b>Margaret Journey</b> , dau	Sep 19 1794
“ <b>Audra Journey</b> , dau	Mar 14 1797

### “DEATHS

“**Joseph Journey** departed this life July 8 1797.  
“**Margaret Journey**, consort of **Joseph Journey** departed this life Nov 10 1836,  
aged 78yr 10mo 22da.”

In *Into This Fruitful Valley* by Gloria M. Cox (1980) on page 1 is the following brief account of the Journey family that came to Posey County, Indiana. It adds one additional child of Joseph and Margaret – Hannah Journey, wife of James Nesbit (probably an error of omission from the previous source, caused when that transcription was made, as DAR records also indicate that she was their daughter and was born on 7 Mar 1786):

“In March of 1817 another group of equal or greater number came from the Blue Grass region into this valley. This group again centered around sisters. The **Journey** girls of French Huguenot stock. **William Davis** laid out Cynthiana, Indiana in the same manner of Cynthiana, Kentucky. His son **John** married **Nellie Journey**. **Hannah Journey** married **James Nesbit** and they came with their small children. **James Nesbit** was a famer and tanner by trade and was a staunch Methodist. **Ralph Martin** and his new bride **Audra Journey** were included. Also coming were **Ruben Garten** and **Mary** [sic: Anna] **Journey** and their two small sons. Family tradition says that the mother of the **Journey** girls, **Margaret McGhee Journey** also came to Indiana.”

An unusual tragedy is said to have affected the husbands of Nellie and Audra Journey in 1818. Their first husbands, John Davis and Ralph Martin, were said to have attended a meeting at the Mount Moriah Camp Meeting Grounds in Gibson County, Indiana. A

severe storm swept through the area and the two men took refuge under a tree. The tree was struck by lightning, killing both men.<sup>207</sup>

Related to the above incident is the following, which was posted by llygen on 14 May 2002 and edited on 6 Jul 2002 in a message thread entitled POSEY COUNTY IN PROBATES. It mentions two sons of John and Nellie (Journey) Davis, who were assigned a guardian in 1831:

*“Posey Co, IN Courthouse Paper - COX Collection - DAVIS Vertical File - 2000ly [sic]*

*“State of IN - Courthouse held in Mount Vernon in the County of Posey and State of IN on the second Monday of May 1839 before the Honorable **Samuel ANNABLE** Judge of the Probate Court of said Posey County. Be it remembered that heretofore to wit at the Feb term 1831 of the court aforesaid **Joseph DAVIS** appeared in open Court aged sixteen years the ninth day of November next and chose **Christopher ASHWORTH** for his guardian. It is therefore ordered by the court that the said **Christopher ASHWORTH** be and is hereby appointed guardian for the said **Joseph DAVIS**. And it is also ordered by the Court that he be guardian for **William DAVIS** aged about thirteen years both minors and sons of **John DAVIS** late of Posey Co deceased and that he enter into Bond and good security of five hundred dollars with **James NESBIT** for his security.”*

And on page 222 of *Into This Fruitful Valley* comes the following account of the parents of the Journey girls:

#### **“JOURNEY – JOURNEE FAMILY**

*“The family of **Joseph Journey** started in New Jersey about 1777 when **Joseph** and **Margaret Megee** were married. **Joseph** was born, according to the bible record that I have a copy of, February 15, 1755 and **Margaret Megee** was born November 18, 1757. They married and had eight children part apparently born in New Jersey, while two youngest were born in Kentucky; the youngest being only four months old when Joseph died on July 2, 1797.*

*“Physically **Joseph Journey**, according to tradition, was a man of above size and strength. He served in the New Jersey Militia under **Capt. Robert Nixon** in the Revolution. There is some question as to the parentage of **Joseph Journey**. They are found in Mamouth [sic: Monmouth] and Middlesex Counties, in New Jersey as well as New York. One thing is certain they were French Hugonnots [sic: Huguenots] who fled France because of their religious beliefs.*

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<sup>207</sup> From the *Cox Collection*, Willard Library, Evansville, Indiana, from page 25 of an unknown typescript document. Also found on page 19 of *Saga of Southern Illinois, Volume XI, #4*, Winter 1984, in an article entitled Posey County, Indiana, Early History and Pioneer Families.

*“It seems rather sure, however, that the father of **Margaret Megee** was **Robert Megee** of Middlesex County, New Jersey whose will is dated 1789. He lists his daughter **Margaret** as his oldest daughter with the following children also listed: **Lida, James, William, John, Mary** and **Ann**. He says that his beloved brother-in-law **William Peerine** is to be one of his executors.*

*“The **Robert** and **William Megee** who are mentioned in early church histories of Kentucky were brothers of **Margaret Megee Journey**. It is possible they also preached in Indiana.*

*“There seems to be a relationship of the **Megee, Mounts, Perine, and Jock** families in New York and New Jersey, but I have personally done little research. Most of the early **Journey** related research in New Jersey, Kentucky and Indiana was the result of the efforts of **Miss Mable McGlaughlin** of Henderson, Kentucky. Research done by various descendants in the 1960’s has lead to the belief that other members of the **Journey** family also came to Kentucky in the 1788-1792 era.*

*“A **Peter Journey** is mentioned in Harrison County, Kentucky court records. After the death of **Joseph Journey** and the settling of his estate, all written records of **Margaret** disappear; with the exception of a marriage license to **Margaret Journey** and a **James Leach** in 1802 in Harrison County, Kentucky. One researcher believes this is the widow of **Joseph Journey**. This may well be true, but the descendants of **Hannah Journey** all speak of their mother living and dieing [sic] in Indiana. The bible record gives her death as 1836. However, the 1840 census record lists in the next household after **Harrison Williams**, a son-in-law, a “**Mother Journey**”;<sup>208</sup> while the 1830 censu [sic] record lists an old lady living with his household. Census records are often poorly spelled and written, so this leaves open speculation that it may well have been “**Mother Journey**”, so called because of her advanced age.*

*“Tombstone and marriage records reveal that a settlement was made in Davis [sic: Daviess] County, Indiana between 1825-1835, and I believe that part of this family settled there. Older members spoke of relatives living in Davies [sic] County, Indiana. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a settlement called Maysville probably named for the settlement left in Kentucky – Maysville in Mason County.”*

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<sup>208</sup> This would seem to relate to a sheet with stamped page number of 307 and a handwritten page number of 599, which appears as Ancestry.com’s image number 7 of 8 of the 1840 *United States Federal Census* (2010) for Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana. On line 2 is an entry for Walter Young. While “Walter” could easily be misread as “Mother,” the surname is clearly starts with a Y, not a J. Three doors down are the households of Polly (Martin) Williams, George Williams, and Lewis Williams. It would seem that in referring to Harrison Williams that she meant George Williams, Audra Journey’s second husband.

## THE LOWES

Lydia Lowe, wife of Enoch Williams, was married in Posey County on 28 Jan 1819. She was said to have been the daughter of William Lowe and his first wife, Bethany McLendon, though no clear evidence of that relationship was discovered during this research.

The Lowes had migrated from Cynthiana, Harrison County, Kentucky, from whence had come many early settlers to the area of Cynthiana, Indiana. Most of these families came around the time of Indiana's statehood, likely a year or two before the Lowes. The Lowes are said to have moved to Kentucky from Prince George's County, Maryland some time between 1792 (when Lydia was born) and 1794 (when their son George was born). Their 1850 Census records corroborate this information.

A 1790 Census record shows the family of William Lowe of Prince George's County with one male under age 16 and three females, suggesting there is some basis in fact for this information. However, marriage records for Maryland, particularly those of Prince George's County, appear to be relatively intact, yet no marriage between William Lowe and any Nancy is recorded, suggesting the possibility that he may have been married elsewhere. Across the Potomac River in Virginia, marriage records appear to only date from the early 1800s, so they may have married there.

On 19 Aug 1800, William "Low" paid the poll tax in Harrison County, Kentucky, but was not taxed for any land.<sup>209</sup> His tax situation was identical the following year, when his taxes were paid on 18 Apr 1801.<sup>210</sup> His name does not appear on Harrison County tax lists of 1802, 1803 or 1805, or on those of 1794-1799.<sup>211</sup>

A William Lowe again paid only the poll tax on 10 May 1809,<sup>212</sup> and William "Low" did likewise in 1810, date unknown.<sup>213</sup>

In the 1810 Census, William Lowe is found in Harrison County, Kentucky as head of a household of ten, with a young wife, six children under age 10 and two daughters ages 10 to 15.

In May 1814, "Wm Low" was a buyer at the estate sale of William Endicott in Harrison County. Other buyers at the sale included Micajah Cleaveland, Stephen and Isaac Eaton,

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<sup>209</sup> *Kentucky County Court Records: Grant, Harrison, Pendleton Counties, Kentucky, Volume XIV, Section 2: Harrison County, Kentucky Tax Lists, 1800-1805* by Janet K. Pease (1999), page 11.

<sup>210</sup> *Kentucky County Court Records: Grant, Harrison, Pendleton Counties, Kentucky, Volume XIV, Section 2: Harrison County, Kentucky Tax Lists, 1800-1805* by Janet K. Pease (1999), page 33.

<sup>211</sup> *Kentucky County Court Records: Grant, Harrison, Pendleton Counties, Kentucky, Volume XIII, Section 2: Harrison County, Kentucky Tax Lists, 1794-1799* by Janet K. Pease (1997).

<sup>212</sup> *Kentucky County Court Records: Grant, Harrison, Pendleton Counties, Kentucky, Volume XV, Section 2: Harrison County, Kentucky Tax Lists, 1806-1810* by Janet K. Pease (2002), page 104.

<sup>213</sup> *Kentucky County Court Records: Grant, Harrison, Pendleton Counties, Kentucky, Volume XV, Section 2: Harrison County, Kentucky Tax Lists, 1806-1810* by Janet K. Pease (2002), page 136.

Dennis Forrest, Joel Frazier and several Endicotts: Aaron, Jesse, John, Joseph, and Thomas.<sup>214</sup>

The Lowes were early settlers in Smith Township; it is recorded in the minutes of the Big Creek Baptist Church that William and Nancy Lowe (William's second wife) were received into the congregation 'by letter' in Oct 1818. George Lowe, a son by Bethany, had been married in Harrison County, Kentucky on 27 Jan 1817, so the family likely arrived somewhere between those two dates.

William is not found in any Census for Posey County or the surrounding vicinity, though his wife is said to have died there in 1832. In the 1820 Census for George Lowe and the 1830 Census for William Lowe, Junior is a male aged over 45 years who could well be William Lowe. He likely died in Aug 1830, shortly before his will was recorded on the 27<sup>th</sup> of that month.

We are fortunate that William Lowe was thoughtful enough to mention all of his children in his will.<sup>215</sup> With the exception of Sally (Lowe) Eaton, William Lowe's children are easily tracked through Census records of southwestern Indiana. But no marriage record is found between Sally Lowe and any Eaton male, who based upon the age of their eldest known daughter, would have married prior to 1807 (suggesting she had married before the Eatons had arrived in Harrison County, Kentucky, where Isaac Eaton had married Isabella Ross in Sep 1806). Because of that, it is difficult to know for certain whether she was the wife of John H. Eaton, who was living five doors down from Enoch Williams and William Harmon in the 1840 Census for Smith Township. However, a few trees on Ancestry.com show them as being married. It seems she may be the Sarah Eaton (who was born 1787 in Maryland) living in the household of Robert Boyle in the 1850 Census for Smith Township, who had been living just a couple of doors away from John H. Eaton in the 1840 Census. Robert Boyle had also been the neighbor of John Eaton in the 1830 Census, providing a reasonable basis for such a belief.

*"In the name of God, Amen. I **William Lowe** of the County of Posey and State of Indiana, being very old and in imperfect health in body, yet sound in mind and memory thanks be to God. Calling into mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is once appointed for all men to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament. That is to say, principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, that give it, and my body recommend to the Earth to be buried in a decent Christian burial at the discretion of my friends. Nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection that I shall receive it again by the same mighty powers that gave it. And as touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life, I give devise and dispose of in the following manner and form. Viz.*

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<sup>214</sup> Kentucky County Court Records: Grant, Harrison, Pendleton Counties, Kentucky, Volume I, Section 2: Harrison County, Kentucky Wills, 1795-1853 by Janet K. Pease (1985), page 91.

<sup>215</sup> Posey County, Indiana Wills, Book A, pages 101-103.



*“First, I give and bequeath to my son, **William Lowe** all that part or parcel of land I now live on in the County and State aforesaid, known and designated by being a part of the south west quarter of section twenty two in Township four, Range twelve, and lying in the North West Corner of said quarter already surveyed and containing by estimation thirty acres, to be freely by him possessed and enjoyed at my death, and no other to have and to hold him the said **William Lowe** and his heirs free from all other titles, claims, and demands whatsoever either in law or equity.*

*“Secondly, I give and devised unto my son, **Littleton Lowe**, all that part or parcel of land he now lives on in the County and State aforesaid, and known by being a part of the south east quarter of section twenty one, Township four, Range twelve already surveyed and marked and in the North East Corner of said quarter, and containing by estimation thirty acres agreeably to said survey, and also to be by him and his heirs freely possessed and enjoyed, free from all other titles, claims and demands whatever at my death to have and to hold to all intents and purposes the above described lots or parcel of land with the appurtenances whatsoever belonging thereunto or in any wise appertaining either in law or equity. I also give my two sons aforesaid to be, and beding to be equally divided between them at my death by my daughters, **Nancy Cavett** and **Lydia Williams**. I also give and bequeath to my daughter, **Nancy Cavett**, ten dollars to be raised out of my personal property at my death. The balance of it to be equally divided between the said **Nancy Cavett**, **Sally Eaton**, **Lydia Williams**, **George Lowe**, **Fillis Kimball**, **Polly Whiting**, **Betsy Allen** my well beloved children to be by them freely possessed and enjoyed.*

*“And I do hereby disannul, disallow and revoke all other wills, legacies and bequeaths, whatsoever ratifying and confirming this to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 1830.*

*“Test*

*(signed) **William Lowe** (seal)*

*“**Samuel McReynolds***

*”**David Smiley**”*

*“State of Indiana*

*“Posey County } Be it remembered that on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August A. D. 1832 before me the undersigned clerk of the Probate Court for the County of Posey aforesaid appeared **Samuel McReynolds** and **David Smiley**, the subscribing witnesses to the within will, and after being duly sworn upon their oaths, do say that they subscribed their names as witnesses to the within will, in their own handwriting that they were present and saw and heard **William Low** the testator sign seal publish pronounce and declare this instrument of writing as and for his testament and last will and at the [word lined out] time of doing that he was of perfect and sound mind memory and understanding to the best of their knowledge observation & belief.*

*“In Witness whereof I have hereunto set*

*my hand the day and date above written*

**“W. E. Stewart Clerk P.P.C.**

*“Recorded 27 Aug 1830*

**“W. E. Stewart Clk P.P.C.”**

Many of the surnames given above (Whiting, Allen, Kimball and McReynolds) are names of families that other Williams siblings, nieces and nephews had also married into. For the record, the spouses of William Lowe’s daughters were:

- Betsy Lowe – Avery Allen
- Sally Lowe – John Eaton
- Nancy Lowe – Andrew Cavett
- Lydia Lowe – Enoch Williams
- Phyllis Lowe – Isaac Kimball
- Polly Lowe – Charles “Little” or “Bricklayer” Whiting

## THE MARTINS

Since there is no end of confusion regarding the ancestry of the early Martin families in the vicinity of Cynthiana, it is wise to first build the firmest possible foundation about the life of Elder James Martin, who had lived in Kentucky before finally settling in Indiana about two miles southwest of Simon Williams. From there we'll have a reasonable place from which to explore his whereabouts prior to his appearance in Kentucky.

The information that follows will show that Elder James Martin had several children, including sons Charles and James Junior. In this section we will examine the proof of these relationships: the former in the form of a local biographical account, and the latter in the form of early records of Warren County, Kentucky. It is worth noting that yDNA testing by direct male descendants<sup>216</sup> of both of these men has revealed a common shared ancestor, of about the generation of Elder James Martin, adding further weight to the conclusions of the analysis that follows.

A second item of note is that much of the confusion about Elder James Martin can be traced back directly to approved DAR applications. These in turn appear to have precipitated the little booklet by Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey entitled *Looking Backward Ten Generations: With Connected Families* (after 1934). Regarding this family, this booklet is a veritable cornucopia of misinformation, as she quite clearly has the ancestry wrong for both Bennet Williams (as discussed elsewhere in this book) and Polly (Martin) Williams. She would seem to be the source of several red herrings, and you will learn that some of this information was almost certainly fabricated, either by her or by one of her undocumented sources.

So next we will start with the fact finding, and after setting a firm factual foundation about the life and family of Elder James Martin, the remainder of this section will lay out the evidence showing that there are a number of erroneously approved DAR applications claiming that Polly (Martin) Williams was the daughter of Colonel James and Obedience (Bugg) Martin.

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<sup>216</sup> Ralph Gilbert Martin and Neal L. Martin, respectively.

## Elder James Martin

Together, three local histories provide a brief biography of Elder James Martin's life in southwestern Indiana:

*"The first white men to settle within the confines of Armstrong township were **James Martin** and his sons, Carolinians. Imbued with pioneer spirit, they made their way into what was then a wilderness, and enduring the hardships which such a life meant established their homes."*<sup>217</sup>

*"It is impossible to name the pioneers in the priority of their coming. Among the earliest were **James Martin** and his two sons, **Thomas** and **Charles**, who came from South Carolina in a very early day, and afterward became well-known in all parts of the county."<sup>218</sup> The elder **Martin** was a Regular Baptist preacher of the early backwoods style, uneducated; and yet with homely illustrations and powerful speech, backed by an upright life which all men admired, he was power for good among the pioneers. He was one of the first to build a horse-power mill in the township, which served in a great degree to ameliorate the hardships of life in the woods. On the 8th of November, 1819, he was licensed to keep a tavern, the first in Armstrong Township. For many years his hospitable house was a favorite place with all who went that way. The rates fixed by the county commissioners as permissible to be charged by him, were as follows: Each diet, 37 1/2 cents; keeping horse, 50 cents; lodging, 12 1/2 cents; one-half pint of gin, peach or apple brandy or bounce, 25 cents; one half-pint of whiskey, 12 1/2 cents."<sup>219</sup>*

*"The first preaching in Cynthiana was by Regular Baptists, at the house of **Clement Whiting**. There had, however, been preaching before this time at the house of **Elsberry Smith**. Elder **James Martin** is thought to have been the first minister..."<sup>220</sup>*

Elder James Martin was noted in these three local histories for two different counties because he lived one half mile from the point of convergence of Gibson, Posey and Vanderburgh Counties, and his life left its mark in all three counties.

Note that none of the above local histories mentions that Elder James Martin had fought in the Revolutionary War. Particularly in the period soon after 1876, such information was usually deemed very important and would nearly always have been included,

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<sup>217</sup> *History of Indiana from its Exploration to 1922: Also an Account of Vanderburgh County from its organization, Volume 3* by Logan Esarey, PhD, edited by John E. Iglehart (1923), page 147.

<sup>218</sup> A common thought is "Why are only Charles and Thomas mentioned in this biography?" The likely reason is that his other sons either weren't part of the memory of the informant (because they died before the informant could get to know them), or because they weren't residents of Vanderburgh County and thus were not pertinent to a history of that county.

<sup>219</sup> *History of Vanderburgh County, Indiana* by Brant and Fuller (1889), page 669.

<sup>220</sup> *History of Posey County, Indiana* (1886) by Goodspeed Publishing Company, page 408.

especially if the soldier's honorable service was particularly noteworthy and almost certainly if he had served as an officer.

While there is much speculation that the Martins had come to Indiana from Edgefield County, South Carolina, there seems to be no direct evidence about where in South Carolina had been the home of Elder James Martin, which presents another major obstacle to overcome in getting the facts straight about him and his family. But family tradition as recorded by direct descendant Roy S. Martin on page 2 of his book, *Martin Family Genealogy* (typescript, 1971), holds that:

*"After leaving South Carolina the family lived several years in Tennessee and Kentucky before settling in Indiana. The family corresponded with relatives in Tennessee until the time of the Civil War."*

He also states:

*"James Martin, a Carolinian, and two of his sons, young men, were among the earliest settlers in Vanderburgh County, Indiana, arriving in 1808. James was followed by several married members of the family, namely, a son, James, Junior, and two married daughters, Sarah Calvert and Mary (Polly) Williams."*

This information was based upon his own family tradition and the records (which he examined in 1960) of another direct descendant, Dorothy Mae (Martin) Peck.<sup>221</sup> While his is not the only account that speculates on the family of Elder James Martin of Armstrong Township, his offers more detail than the others. So let's see if any of this can be corroborated by facts from public records in Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana.

## Tennessee

Records in eastern Tennessee are scarce in the early 1800s, so with one brief exception we'll skip over the claim that he lived briefly in Tennessee and focus on the time he lived in Kentucky and Indiana Territory.

Despite the scarcity of early Tennessee marriage records, there is a reference to the 1804 marriage of "Miss Sarah Martin, who was born in South Carolina in 1783" to Patrick Calvert "who was born in Tennessee in 1784."<sup>222</sup> The names of her parents are not mentioned. You will later learn that Patrick Calvert settled a half mile from Elder James Martin, doing so three years after James had made his land entry for property in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. A biographical account of their son, Leroy Calvert, states that they were married in 1804 in Tennessee.<sup>223</sup> Regarding Patrick Calvert's family, Gloria Cox writes that "He married Sarah Martin in 1804 in

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<sup>221</sup> Roy S. Martin and Dorothy Mae Peck were both second great grandchildren of Charles Martin (who was the son of Elder James Martin). They were in their teens when Charles' sons, Joseph Lane Martin and Jasper Martin, were living, suggesting two possible sources of their information. In addition, Dorothy had spent most of her life in the area around Cynthiana and was Joseph Lane Martin's granddaughter.

<sup>222</sup> John C. Leffel's *History of Posey County, Indiana* (1913), page 288.

<sup>223</sup> *History of Vanderburgh County, Indiana* by Brant and Fuller (1889), pages 672-673.



Northwestern Tennessee or Southern Kentucky. She was the daughter of James Martin, Sr., and was born in 1784 in South Carolina or Tennessee, according to family tradition.”<sup>224</sup>

Their marriage coincides well with when Simon Williams is first found in the records of Warren County, Kentucky in late 1804, followed not long after by the arrival of Elder James Martin.

The bond that permitted Elder James Martin to perform marriages in Warren County, Kentucky.

## Kentucky

The first evidence of Elder James Martin in Kentucky is found in Warren County, where on 3 Jun 1805 he and Simon Williams together posted a bond (above) in the amount of £500.<sup>225</sup> It states:

“Know all men by these presents[,] we **James Martin & Simon Williams** are held and firmly bound unto his Excellency the Governor of Kentucky for the time being in the penal sum of Five hundred pounds current money[,] the payment of

<sup>224</sup> Into This Fruitful Valley by Gloria M. Cox (1980), page 286.

<sup>225</sup> Marriage Records, 1797-1898, Warren County, Kentucky, Bonds for licenses to perform marriages 1798-1859, marriage records 1797-1891, FHL Microfilm #164004.

*which well and truly to be made to said Governor and his successors[.] We bind ourselves[.] each of our heirs[.] &<sup>e</sup> (probably shorthand for “our successors”) jointly & severally firmly by these presents[.] sealed and dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June 1805. The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above **James Martin** hath this day produced credentials of his ordination & also of his being in regular communion with the church to which he belongs[.] he is therefore Permitted to celebrate the rites of matrimony in this County[.] Now if the said **Martin** shall well and truly solemnize the Rites of matrimony according to law then this obligation to be Void[.] Else to remain in full force and virtue.”*

Thus it was Simon Williams who helped make it possible for Elder James Martin to perform marriages while he had lived in Warren County, Kentucky, and this event took place on the *same day* that Moses Pruitt and Phebe Williams were married. These are very significant facts, as Simon Williams clearly held Elder James Martin in high enough regard to have risked part of his own personal fortune on his behalf. More importantly, it also reinforces that they had lived in very close proximity to one another as proven in Chapter 2, and had probably been acquainted for some time *prior to* their arrival in Warren County, though no record exists to prove this speculation.

An 1805 tax list for Warren County, Kentucky confirms that Elder James Martin and Simon Williams were living in the same vicinity. On 22 Aug 1805 [Elder] James Martin is found living on 200 acres of third rate land on the waters of Drakes Creek, on land that had been entered by “C. Revis.”<sup>226</sup> Simon Williams was also living on the waters of Drakes Creek, having paid his taxes a day earlier.<sup>227</sup>

The 1805 Warren County, Kentucky marriage of James Martin, Junior and Sally Williams is significant in that Bennet Williams (who was Simon William’s son, Sally’s brother *and* would soon be the husband of Polly Martin) posted the marriage bond. And (as discussed in Chapter 4) the Warren County marriage return lists of 1805, 1806 and 1807 show that Elder James Martin had almost certainly performed the above marriage, as well as the marriage of Polly Martin and Bennet Williams.

Records still exist of at least some of the other marriages performed by Elder James Martin while living in Warren County (this is likely an incomplete listing):

- At some time in 1806, William West and Polly Howard.<sup>228,229</sup>
- On 20 Jan 1806, Ephraim Thompson and Polly Creal.<sup>230,231</sup>
- On 18 Oct 1806, Hazeal Putnam [sic: Putman] and Isabell Combs.<sup>232,233</sup>

<sup>226</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1805, List 1, page 12, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>227</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1805, List 1, page 19, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>228</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Marriages 1797 through 1851 by Sandra K. Gorin (1999), page 194. (1999)

<sup>229</sup> The same source also notes this couple marrying on 6 Dec 1799 with security by Zack Putman.

<sup>230</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Marriages 1797 through 1851 by Sandra K. Gorin (1999), page 182. (1999)

<sup>231</sup> Ephraim Thompson was witness to the assignment of 75 acres of Samuel Thompson’s patent to Simon Williams in about 1812.

<sup>232</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Marriages 1797 through 1851 by Sandra K. Gorin (1999), page 146. (1999)

- On 16 Dec 1806, David Barnet to Elizabeth Pendleton.<sup>234</sup>
- On 21 Aug 1807, Singlar [sic: Sinclar or Sinclair] Manson and Rosa Thompson.<sup>235</sup>
- On 24 May 1807, William Harmon and Polly Williams.

(Recall that in Chapter 4 there was a detailed discussion of date of marriage for William Harmon and Polly Williams, which did not take place in either 1803 or 1820 as reported in other sources.)

An 1806 tax list for Warren County, Kentucky finds that [Elder] James Martin, Senior was living on the waters of Trammel Creek (which had also been known as the East Fork of Drakes Creek) on 150 acres of third rate land that was entered by Charles Reavis. He paid his taxes on 9 May, which also included the poll tax and a tax for two horses. James Martin, Junior is listed next, also on 9 May, but he was not taxed for land, only for the poll tax and for one horse.<sup>236</sup> In light of the preceding facts, this implies that they were living together on the same land and thus leaves no doubt that Elder James Martin, Senior was his father.<sup>237</sup> Simon Williams was also living on the waters of Trammel Creek, but he paid his tax more than a week later.<sup>238</sup>

In 1806 Polly Martin married Bennet Williams. James Martin posted bond, which would have been either her father or her brother (the latter perhaps returning the same favor that Bennet had given him the previous year). Either way, this is the next best thing to clear proof that Elder James Martin was also the father of Polly Martin.

The following year, in 1807, [Elder] James Martin, Senior was living on 150 acres of third rate land that had been entered by Charles “Revis.” He also paid the poll tax and was taxed for three horses. The entry following his was for James Martin, Junior, who was not taxed for land, but paid the poll tax and was taxed for one horse.<sup>239</sup>

Having established by direct evidence that James Martin, Junior and Polly (Martin) Williams were children of Elder James Martin, it is worth considering what that information tells us about when he was born. The only clear indication of his age is found in the 1820 Census, which simply states that he was more than 45 years old at that time. And available public records tell us that his son James Martin, Junior was born in 1784, and that his daughter Polly Martin was born in 1788. Thus we know with absolute certainty that he was born some time prior to 1775, especially since we know that his

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<sup>233</sup> Hazeal Putman later served as a Justice of the Peace in Gibson County, Indiana Territory and lived in Vanderburgh County before moving to Fulton County, Illinois in 1823. Source: *Hazeal Putman of Fulton County, Illinois* by Bill Putman (2014). He and Patrick Calvert were, on the same day, commissioned as lieutenants of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Indiana Militia during the War of 1812.

<sup>234</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Marriages 1797 through 1851* by Sandra K. Gorin (1999), page 7.

<sup>235</sup> By 1818, he was listed in the Illinois Census living in Jackson County, Illinois.

<sup>236</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1806, List 2*, page 16, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>237</sup> *Tax Lists (1792-1840): An Overlooked Resource for Kentucky History and Land Title* by Kandie Adkinson, Land Office, Kentucky Secretary of State (no publication date), page 4. The cited page discusses the relevance of proximity of time and place on tax lists in establishing family groups.

<sup>238</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1806, List 2*, page 28, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>239</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1807, List 2*, page 16, FHL microfilm #8255.

sons Charles and Thomas were born in 1791 and 1796, respectively. It was customary in that era for men, particularly those from deeply religious families like that of Elder James Martin, to marry around the time of their twenty-first birthday. So, that means that he was likely born no later than about 1763.<sup>240</sup> That at least tells us that, if we were to look for him in the 1830 Census, he would be listed as being over age 60, and very possibly over age 70.

### Indiana Territory

Earlier, we found where Roy S. Martin stated that Elder James Martin came to Indiana around 1808. At that time and until 1813, the area he had lived in was part of Knox County, Indiana Territory. There is a good factual basis for believing this date of arrival, as Alexander Devin (who was instrumental in the growth of the Baptist faith in the lower Wabash River Valley) had arrived in Knox County in the spring of 1808.<sup>241</sup> It is likely not coincidental that they arrived in the vicinity at about the same time. (It is worth mentioning that, on 6 Feb 1804, Alexander Devin, John Williams and Joseph Duncan signed a bond for £500 to enable Alexander Devin to perform marriages in Warren County, Kentucky. This John Williams was probably the husband of Sylvy, not John Clark Williams, as the former was able to sign the bond, whereas the latter could only make his mark.)<sup>242</sup>

Elder John Hightower had helped to found Union Church in Warren County, Kentucky in 1796 near the West Fork of Drakes Creek, which would not have been far from where James Martin had lived while he was in Warren County. He, Joseph Logan from Virginia and Alexander Devin from South Carolina were responsible for establishing most of the early Baptist churches in the area, including ones on Trammel Creek and the Middle Fork of Drakes Creek.<sup>243</sup> On the 1805 tax rolls of Warren County, living on the waters of Drakes Creek are: Joseph Logan on 16 Aug, Alexander Devin on 17 Aug and James Martin on 22 Aug (analysis of 1805 tax lists show that no taxes were collected on Aug 18 or 19 and that taxes were collected from only one family group on Aug 20).<sup>244,245</sup> The closeness of those dates indicate that they were living very near one another and were almost certainly well acquainted.

On 22 May 1809, twenty five voters (with only sixteen unique surnames) took part in an election held at the house of Jacob Warrick in Wabash Township, Knox County, Indiana Territory.<sup>246</sup> Among those in attendance were James Martin, Junior, [Elder] James Martin, Senior and Bennet Williams, which places them amongst the earliest settlers in

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<sup>240</sup> This precludes the possibility that Elder James Martin was Colonel James Martin's son, as Colonel James Martin was born on 14 Oct 1749.

<sup>241</sup> *History of Gibson County, Indiana* by Gil R. Stormont (1914), page 55

<sup>242</sup> *Marriage Records, 1797-1898, Warren County, Kentucky, Bonds for licenses to perform marriages 1798-1859, marriage records 1797-1891*, FHL Microfilm #164004.

<sup>243</sup> Page 323, *A History of Kentucky Baptists: Volume 1* by John H. Spencer (1886).

<sup>244</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1805, List 1*, pages 11, 4 and 12 respectively, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>245</sup> August 18<sup>th</sup> was a Sunday, so the tax man probably didn't work on the Sabbath.

<sup>246</sup> Present day Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana.



Indiana Territory.<sup>247</sup> The names of all three men appeared side-by-side, next to those of John and ? “Kimbol” (probably Jesse Kimball, either Junior or Senior), both of whom were also early settlers of the area north of Cynthiana, Indiana.

James Martin, Senior is also found listed in *Marks & brands of domestic animals as registered in Knox County, Indiana, 1807-1841* by Helen Kackley et al (1951), which was derived from the Knox County Clerk’s register of livestock markings (James Martin, Junior’s name does not appear in the listing). Registering these markings was a means of proving ownership, should an animal stray or end up in the possession of another:

*“James Martin Senr. Records the following mark, viz:  
A Crop in the Left Ear, a Crop in the right and an under slope.  
April 18, 1810”*

Evidence of the marriage ceremonies performed by Elder James Martin in Knox County, Indiana is found in marriage return records held at the Knox County Public Library’s McGrady-Brockman House. The following transcriptions are derived from scanned images provided courtesy of Brian Spangler:

*“Indiana Territory §  
Knox County § By virtue of Publication according to law. Between  
John Rodgers and Sally Martin, I Solemnized the marriage on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of  
May 1811.*

*James Martin, M. G.”*

*“This is to certify that I, James Martin, joined together as husband and wife on  
the 25th of November, 1811, Jesse Kimball and Sally Kimball, being published as  
the Law Directs.  
Rec’d Aug. 23rd, 1812<sup>248</sup>*

*James Martin”*

*“This is to certify that I James Martin joined together as husband and wife on the  
9<sup>th</sup> day of February 1812 Stephen Ballard and Rachel Waldron[sic: Waldron]  
being published as the law directs.*

*James Martin”*

*“This is to Certify that I James Martin joined together as Husband and Wife on  
the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 1812 Charles Martin and Franky Rook, being Published as the  
Law Directs.  
Rec’d Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1812*

*James Martin”*

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<sup>247</sup> This comes from a transcribed, typewritten copy of the election results found on page 62 of *Indiana Territorial Pioneer Records, 1801-1815* by Charles M. Franklin (1983). Bennett Williams name is absent from this transcription. The author obtained a photocopy of the original election results from the Indiana Historical Society to verify that all three men were in attendance.

<sup>248</sup> This record is also noted in *Indiana Magazine of History, Volume xviii, Issue 1* (March 1922), page 87 of an article by George William Beattie and Helen Pruitt Beattie entitled Jesse Kimball – Pioneer.



*“This is to certify that I **James Martin** have joined together **Thomas Allmon** and **Ruth Martin** as husband and wife on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 1812, being published according to law.*

***James Martin”***

*“I do hereby certify that by virtue of a License from under the hand and seal of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Knox and Indiana Territory I have joined together in the Bonds of Matrimony **John Martin** and **Nancy Anderson** agreeable to the ordinance (?) of God and the Law of the Land. Given under my hand and seal this 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of January A.D. 1813.*

***James Martin”***

We’ve already seen direct proof that Charles Martin (the fourth marriage return above) was Elder James Martin’s son. And he also performed the ceremony for his other proven son, Thomas Martin. That took place on 25 Apr 1816, but by then the jurisdiction had changed to Gibson County, though the neighborhood was almost certainly the same.

Elder James Martin is known to have made a land entry in Gibson County, Indiana Territory (present-day Vanderburgh County, Indiana) in late 1814. The property is located just south of the I-64/Highway 65 interchange, and is presently bisected by modern-day Highway 65. In 1876 Calverts Chapel was built on the southern half of the property, where Highway 65 turns south along the eastern property line. Prior to that time he was probably living near his son, James Martin, Junior (who owned land west of Owensville in Gibson County). Given the sparse population of the area at the end of 1814 (just prior to the conclusion of the War of 1812), and with no evidence of other Martin males of sufficient age that were known to have lived in those same neighborhoods in both Kentucky and Indiana, the other Knox County Martin marriages listed above were likely his family members: John Martin and Ruth (Martin) Almon were likely his children, and Sally (Martin) Rodgers was more likely his widowed daughter-in-law.

It is possible that Sally (Martin) Rodgers was his daughter, but circumstantial evidence is strongest that his daughter was Sarah (Martin) Calvert: she was clearly a maiden when she married, she lived next door to Elder James Martin in Armstrong Township, and her husband was an executor for the estate of James Martin, Junior. On the other hand, there is only a marriage return to tie Sarah (Martin) Rogers to Elder James Martin or any of his family. An educated guess is that she was the widow of one of his sons. The best likelihood for the identity of that son is Medford, who shows up in various early local records, but does not appear in any Census.

There is plenty of circumstantial evidence that Ruth (Martin) Almon may have been Elder James Martin’s daughter, as Ruth’s children and those of James Martin, Junior intermarried with the same families in Illinois (primarily in Franklin County).

It would seem that the John Martin that married Nancy Anderson likely died before the 1820 Census. There are two John Martins in Gibson County at the 1820 Census: one is

too young to have married several years earlier, and the other is old enough to have been Elder James Martin's brother, but he is living near Princeton, well away from the Martins who were concentrated in a small area between Owensville and Cynthiana.

On 7 Sep 1812, James (almost certainly Junior, who would have been in his late twenties – Senior would have been over age 50) and John Martin (who would have been at least 21 years old when he had married at the beginning of 1813) are listed as privates on the roll of Captain William Hargrove's Company of Mounted Riflemen of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Indiana Militia.<sup>249</sup> So this would further support the notion that they were likely brothers.

Of the other Knox County marriages, Jesse Kimball was a close neighbor. Rachel Waldron [sic: Waldron] was listed in the 1812 Territorial Census and was thus likely a widow, and soon you will see that a Waldron was listed as a charter member of Big Creek Church. So she, too, was likely also a neighbor.

On 20 May 1813, James Martin, John Barr and Jesse Kimball were assigned to appraise the estate of Daniel Fisher. John Armstrong was administrator.<sup>250</sup>

Big Creek Baptist Church, in Gibson County, Indiana Territory (near present-day Cynthiana, Posey County, Indiana), was organized on 3 Jul 1813, by Elders Alexander Devin and Samuel Jones. The charter members were:

- Elder James Martin,
- Milly Martin [James' wife],
- John Armstrong,
- Mary Armstrong [John's wife],
- James Waldron [sic: Waldron, husband of Susannah Rook],
- Nancy Crawley,
- Sarah Smith [wife of George Rudolphus Smith (for whom Smith Township was named) and daughter of John Armstrong], and
- Franky Martin [nee Rook, wife of Elder James Martin's son, Charles].<sup>251</sup>

Thus just six families were represented in the initial church membership: Armstrong, Crawley, Martin, Rook, Smith and Waldron. And it is quite possible that Nancy Crawley's maiden name was Rook, as living next to Elijah Rook in the 1820 Census are James 'Crowley' and Cornelius 'Cowley.'

Elder James Martin performed his first recorded marriage ceremony in Gibson County in Oct 1813, shortly after the county was created.<sup>252</sup> He performed a total of eleven known marriages in Gibson County, with his last in that county taking place on 12 Nov 1820.

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<sup>249</sup> *Muster, pay and receipt rolls of Indiana Territory volunteers or militia of the period of the War of 1812, Volume 3* (1926), U.S. Adjutant General's Office, pages 498, 499, 500 and 501.

<sup>250</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Wills, Book A*, page unnumbered.

<sup>251</sup> From [www.carthage.lib.il.us](http://www.carthage.lib.il.us), The Primitive Baptist Library of Carthage, Illinois.

<sup>252</sup> *Gibson County Marriage Records Volume 1* by Ruth Eads Kendall (typescript, undated).

In Gibson County, Indiana, on 6 Oct 1814, James Martin acted as the administrator of the estate of James Robinson. Buyers at the sale included James Martin, Senior, James Martin, Junior, Lewis Williams, William Williams and Uriah Davis, as well as several others who were frequently found in the vicinity of Armstrong Township in this time period. He settled the estate at the June 1817 Term of the Gibson County Court of Probate.<sup>253</sup>

The first recorded Posey County marriage performed by Elder James Martin in took place on 6 May 1816, shortly after the county was created and just two weeks after he had presided over the wedding of his son Thomas in Gibson County.<sup>254</sup> There are records for a total of twelve marriages performed by him in Posey County, including the marriages of Joseph Cater and Jemima Williams on 16 Oct 1817 and John Williams and Elizabeth Rook on 8 Nov 1818. The last marriage that he is known to have performed there took place on 25 Apr 1822.

On 29 Oct 1814 James Martin made a land entry for 160 acres of land near the southern boundary of Gibson County, Indiana Territory (in present-day Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana),<sup>255</sup> completing the purchase and receiving a patent from the General Land Office on 3 Nov 1818.<sup>256</sup> He was the fourth person to make a land entry in what in 1818 would become Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana, behind Kirby Armstrong in 1812, and John Armstrong and David Whetstone in 1813. Patrick Calvert, husband of Sarah Martin, made an entry on 31 Jul 1817 for the SE ¼ of Section 30, T4S, R11W,<sup>257</sup> which was ½ mile from James' entry (their properties were separated by 240 acres owned by John Armstrong).

At the March 1815 term of the Gibson County Circuit Court, James Martin, Mildred Martin, Charles Martin, Thomas Martin and Uriah Davis were ordered to appear, apparently as witnesses in a case where John Armstrong had alleged that William Benson and Moses Pruitt had accused him of stealing their hogs.

Being such an early settler of Vanderburgh County, it comes as no surprise that Elder James Martin was appointed by the County Commissioners as an early overseer of the poor in Armstrong Township,<sup>258</sup> and that he and his sons Thomas and Charles and son-in-law Patrick Calvert were among the twenty three voters in the first election in Armstrong Township, which was held at the home of Zadoc McNew at the forks of Big Creek in 1818.<sup>259,260</sup>

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<sup>253</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Sourcebook, Volume II* by Terry L. Nolcox (1993), page 1.

<sup>254</sup> *Posey County, Indiana, marriage records, Volume 1* by J. Oscar and Opal B. Phillips (typescript, undated).

<sup>255</sup> *Vanderburgh County Tract Book #1, Land Purchases, 1805-1853*, Mary Anthony McGary Chapter DAR (1968), page 41.

<sup>256</sup> *General Land Office Records*, Accession # CV-0041-518.

<sup>257</sup> *Vanderburgh County Tract Book #1, Land Purchases, 1805-1853*, Mary Anthony McGary Chapter DAR (1968), page 46.

<sup>258</sup> *History of Vanderburgh County, Indiana* by Brant and Fuller (1889), page 64.

<sup>259</sup> *History of Vanderburgh County, Indiana* by Brant and Fuller (1889), page 575.

<sup>260</sup> Zadoc McNew had entered property in the NW ¼ of Section 32, T4S, R11W.

On 23 Dec 1818, Hugh and Mary McGary sold Lot 120 of the original Plat of Evansville to James Martin for \$40. Witnesses were Benjamin Davis and John Harrison.<sup>261</sup>

Elder James Martin was involved in several early marriages in Vanderburgh County, though only a limited number of early marriage returns exist to document this fact. A total of five returns signed by James Martin were located, which are presented in the order in which they are found in the source:<sup>262</sup>

- 1 Aug 1819, John S. Sanders and Nancy Roberson.
- 9 Jul 1820, John Henson and Mary Chapman.
- 16 Mar 1821, John McNew and Rachel Bowling.
- 19 Oct 1821, Benjamin Holcum [sic: Holcomb] and Lydia Patten.
- 4 Nov 18??, James Brooks and Elizabeth Blackburn (?).
- 24 Jan 1822, Joseph Hughey and Betsy Bryant.

Looking at the 1820 Census for Armstrong Township, we find the following four Martin households (in boldface type) listed in the order that they were recorded by the census enumerator:

- **Patrick Calvert (husband of Sarah Martin)**
- John Armstrong, Junior
- Robert Allen (brother of William Williams' wife, Martha)
- Major Selsor
- John Armstrong, Senior (charter member of Big Creek Baptist Church)
- **James Martin** (charter member of Big Creek Baptist Church)
- **Thomas Martin** (son of Elder James Martin)
- William Cater (son-in-law of Lewis Williams)
- John McCrary
- Lewis Williams (elder of Big Creek Baptist Church)
- Uriah Davis (brother-in-law to Lewis Williams' wife)
- Joseph Cater (son-in-law of Lewis Williams and whose marriage was performed by Elder James Martin)
- Isaac Gotherd
- **Littleberry Martin** (almost certainly the nephew of Elder James Martin).

Charles Martin was listed not far away, on a different page of the Census, though he, Thomas and Littleberry later patented land within a quarter mile of each other just outside of Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County (their properties were located in Johnson Township, Gibson County three miles east of the property of Elder James Martin).

Littleberry Martin is known to have been the son of William Martin of Georgia.<sup>263</sup> William had been living in South Carolina when he fought in the Revolutionary War and

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<sup>261</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book A*, page 18.

<sup>262</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Marriage Returns, 1818-1835*, Charles R. Hufnagel et al (1966), Family History Library, microfilm #1479310. Pages 16, 28, 34, 44, 45 and 47, respectively.

<sup>263</sup> Pages 389-390, *Portrait and biographical album of Coles County, Illinois* by Chapman Brothers (1887).

had lived there after the war, though he eventually moved to Georgia. So Littleberry's presence in the neighborhood helps to corroborate the notion that Elder James Martin had come from South Carolina and provides some interesting circumstantial evidence to match against what is known of the family of Colonel James Martin (whose brother William had died during the Revolutionary War<sup>264</sup>).

An 1820 Census record is missing for Bennet Williams and his wife, Polly (Martin), though just two years prior to that Bennet had patented land just west of Cynthiana.

In the 1820 Census for Montgomery Township, Gibson County we find the household of James Martin Junior, living about two miles due west of where the 1809 election had been held (he made his entry for the land on 18 Apr 1814<sup>265</sup>). That was about 8 miles north-northwest of Elder James Martin's property in Armstrong Township (the 1814 land entry).

Elder James Martin is found in the 1820 Census for Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County living with his wife and a 16 to 25 year old female.

On 23 Jun 1824 James Martin sold Lot 120 of the original plat of Evansville to James Newman for \$40, with John Bryant and Hugh McGary as witnesses.<sup>266</sup> And on 23 Jul 1824 he sold 60 acres from the SW ¼ of Section 19, T4S, R11W to John Boren for \$150, with James and John McCreary as witnesses.<sup>267</sup> On both deeds only he was required to sign, meaning that his wife, Milly, had died before then (if she had been alive she would have been required to sign that she was aware that she was signing away her dower right in these properties).

On 1 Aug 1824 James Martin married Fanny Hunter in Vanderburgh County, and shortly thereafter, on 25 Aug 1824, he sold 80 acres from the SW ¼ of Section 19, T4S, R11W to Elijah Turner for \$350.<sup>268</sup> Fanny made her mark as his wife, and Kirby and John Armstrong were witnesses. James' name was given as "James Martin, Snr."

(Elder James Martin had patented the entire SW ¼ of Section 19, T4S, R11W, which nominally contains 160 acres of land, so why did the two deeds that conveyed this property only amount to 140 acres? The answer appears to be that the quarter section was narrower than normal [about 90% of normal width] and thus was about 20 acres shy of the size of a normal quarter section.)

James Martin, Junior died in Dec 1825, leaving a will naming James Rice Waters (son-in-law of John Armstrong) and Patrick Calvert (husband of Sally Martin) as executors. The will names Sally (Williams) as his widow.

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<sup>264</sup> Captain William M. Martin was killed at the First Siege of Augusta, Georgia on 14 Sep 1780 (per *Our Nation Builders* by Mrs. Marshall Martin [nee Lula Long; 1947], page 48).

<sup>265</sup> Page 86, *Indiana Land Entries, Volume 2, Vincennes District, Part 1, 1807-1877* by Margaret R. Waters (1949).

<sup>266</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book A*, pages 429 and 430.

<sup>267</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book A*, page 444.

<sup>268</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book B*, page 67.



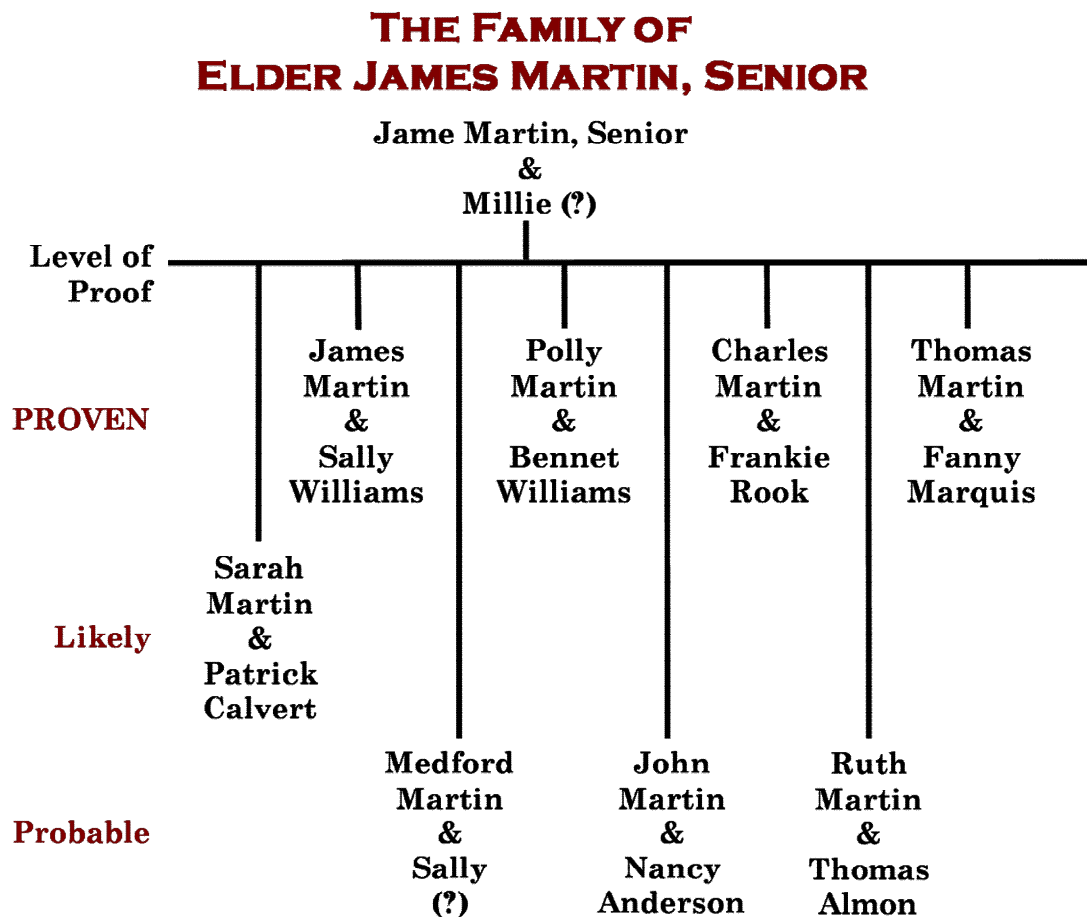
So the family lore provided by Roy S. Martin would seem to have a basis in fact. There seems to be at least good circumstantial evidence that the following were children of Elder James Martin and his wife, Milly. All of them were named as children in Roy S. Martin's research:

- Sally Martin, wife of Patrick Calvert.
- James Martin, Junior, husband of Sally Williams.
- Polly Martin, wife of Bennet Williams.
- Charles Martin, husband of Frankie Rook.
- Thomas Martin, husband of Fanny Marquis.

Medford Martin should probably also be added to this list, as he appears in local historical records with members of Elder James Martin's family, though he seems not to have lived long enough to have been recorded in the 1820 Census.

In addition, the early marriages performed by Elder James Martin while he lived in the jurisdiction of Knox County suggest two other probable children:

- Ruth Martin, wife of Thomas Almon.
- John Martin, husband of Nancy Anderson.



There are enough Martins in the Gibson, Posey and Vanderburgh County area by the first surviving Federal Census (1820) that there is always speculation that the above listed individuals (aside from Charles and Thomas Martin) were part of a family other than that of Elder James Martin. When these other individuals are researched there are clear indications that they had not lived in close proximity to the individuals listed above. In a time period when there was sporadic conflict with the natives, the counties had few roads and no bridges, and people were lucky to have even a rough cabin for shelter, it makes little sense that family members would not settle in close proximity to one another. Doing so enabled them to pool their resources and manpower, so that they could prepare their land in order to provide for the basic needs and security of their families.

Regarding the later whereabouts of Elder James, Roy S. Martin wrote:

*“Between June and August, 1824, he sold his farm and a lot in Evansville, Indiana. August 1, 1824, he married a young woman, **Fanny Hunter**.<sup>269</sup> She may have been the same person, 16 to 25 years of age, listed as a member of his household in addition to his wife in the 1820 Census. It is said that he then moved south to relatives. Nothing is known of his life subsequently.”*

The marriage to Fanny Hunter in 1824, even though we have no idea of her age, is plausible, as there were only two known James Martins in the vicinity at that time: James Junior and James Senior. And clearly, James Junior's will of 2 Dec 1825 states that his wife at that time was named Sally. Unfortunately, not knowing where Elder James was living at the time of his death means that there is no way to find a will or other proof of his relationship to the individuals who, at least circumstantially, would seem to have been his children.

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<sup>269</sup> Posey County, Indiana marriage records, Volume 1 by J. Oscar and Opal B. Phillips (undated), license 393. The wedding was performed by Joseph Spaulding, Esq.

## Colonel James Martin

Now that we have a firm foundation of facts about the life of Elder James Martin, it is worth exploring the DAR “proof” that Polly (Martin) Williams (wife of Bennet Williams) was a descendant of Colonel James Martin, who was born on 14 Oct 1749.<sup>270</sup> And of course we already know that Elder James Martin was born sometime prior to 1763. They certainly could have been the same man, but since Elder James Martin was alive when the Colonel was only fourteen years of age, *they very clearly could not have been father and son.*

The first person to be granted DAR membership based upon the line of Polly (Martin) Williams was Eva Mae (Epperson) Atkinson in the early 1930s.<sup>271</sup> The author visited the DAR library in Washington, D. C. in the spring of 2013 to examine the supporting documentation submitted with this and the other applications that have been accepted for this line, hoping that direct proof existed of the connection between Edgefield County, South Carolina and southwestern Indiana. *It doesn't*: no such proof was found in *any* of the applications for this line. From her efforts were derived the two most accessible published sources of this lineage:

1. The DAR application of Susan (Atkinson) Rosentrader (Eva Mae's granddaughter), which appears in a compilation of Indiana DAR ancestors,<sup>272</sup> and
2. The little 37 page booklet printed some time after 1934 by Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey (Eva Mae's second cousin, once removed) entitled *Looking Backward Ten Generations: With Connected Families.*

These two sources are nearly identical, and since Mrs. Ramsey's version is the more detailed we'll use it exclusively for all further analysis. But first let's start with the earliest and most reliable known published source about the family of Colonel James Martin. It is found in *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Volume 43, No. 2*, page 194 (April 1912),<sup>273</sup> in an article entitled *Registration of Pedigrees*. The following is found under “Pedigree No. 56, Lyddall” by Josephine (Adams) Perry (Colonel James Martin's great granddaughter by his daughter Keziah):

“7. **Obedience Bugg**, b. ...., 1752, at Lunenburg, Va.; d. ...., 1778,<sup>274</sup> at Augusta, Ga.; m. ...., to **Col. James Martin**, \* b. ...., 1748, at ...., Va.; d. ...., in Edgefield District, S. C.

<sup>270</sup> Ancestry.com's *Alabama, Marriages, Deaths, Wills, Court and Other Records, 1784-1920* (2011), which contains a transcript of the family bible of Gussie Cheney, granddaughter of Abram Martin (father of Colonel James Martin).

<sup>271</sup> DAR National # 281528.

<sup>272</sup> Pages 408 and 409 of *A Roster of Revolutionary Ancestors of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution, Volume 1* by Indiana DAR (1976).

<sup>273</sup> The second oldest genealogical journal in the United States (published continuously since 1870).

<sup>274</sup> This date of death appears to be incorrect. Elizabeth Bugg's will dated 6 Oct 1799 leaves money to Obedience Newsome and her scions by James Martin, suggesting that Obedience had remarried, either after James' death or their divorce. This will is found quoted in several sources, but the specific Columbia County, Georgia book and page numbers were not given.

*“Res. Edgefield District, S. C. He was a Colonel of Militia in the Revolutionary War, and was a planter by occupation.  
“Children: **Betsy, Letty, Mary, Keziah Parish, Prudence, James.**”*

This account lists six children: five daughters and one son: James Martin, Junior. The reason that this account is so highly credible is that Josephine was born in 1834 and her mother, Sarah Susannah (MacMurphy) Adams (Colonel James Martin’s granddaughter), was born in 1806 and had lived until 1901; and Sarah’s mother had lived until at least 1826.<sup>275</sup> Sarah was in her late fifties when her father died, and she recorded much of her knowledge of her ancestors in the book entitled *As I remember and other Reminiscences*, which was published posthumously in 1904. The book documents dozens of family letters and other artifacts to further bolster the credibility of this line. She certainly would have known the names of all of Colonel James Martin’s children. She also could be certain in the knowledge that he had died in Edgefield County, South Carolina, not in Indiana or elsewhere.

Mrs. Perry’s account is bolstered by the 1790 Census record found for Obedience Martin in Ninety-Six District, Edgefield County, South Carolina.<sup>276</sup> Her household consisted of one male under the age of 16, five females and nine slaves. This record is one female short of being an exact match for the family described above. If Colonel James Martin was born in 1749, he likely had married around 1770, so by 1790 it is very possible that one of his daughters had recently married at around age 18.

Now let’s take a look at page 26 of Mrs. Ramsey’s unsourced booklet:

***“James Martin, born Oct. 1749, married Obedience Bugg, (the daughter of Sherwood Bugg and Elizabeth Hobson Bugg.)***

***“Issue – (of James and Obedience)  
Prudence, married 3 times – .....Cooke, C. Martin and ..... Fleming.  
Keziah, married George MacMurphy  
Sarah, married ..... Rodgers  
Elizabeth, married West Cook  
Polly, married Bennet Williams  
James, Jr., married ..... Harris  
Letitia, married Henry Crawley”***

So, to a far more credible account provided more than 20 years earlier, by a descendant who was fewer generations removed from Colonel James Martin and with better access to someone with a living memory of at least one of his children, Mrs. Ramsey adds an additional daughter, Sarah, and she provides us with additional details of his children (or at least of people with the same given names as his children). Anyone that would take the time and effort to dig in depth into the details that she provides will find that some of

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<sup>275</sup> Ancestry.com’s *Georgia, Property Tax Digests, 1793-1892* (2011) for years 1819, 1820, 1825 and 1826.

<sup>276</sup> *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Volume 12, South Carolina*, Government Printing Office (1908), page 67, Column 1, record 18.

these details are for people who clearly could not have been Colonel James' children. But dissecting and analyzing the various erroneous aspects of this undocumented information (which are of no direct interest to the case at hand) would be an unnecessary diversion, so we'll focus instead on the most direct route to exposing her information for the red herring that it is. To do that, we'll examine Colonel James Martin's son, James Martin, Junior (who according to Mrs. Ramsey et al was Polly [Martin] Williams' brother).

Mrs. Ramsey tells us that James Martin, Junior married a woman named Harris. We've already learned that Elder James Martins' son married Sally Williams when he became of age (turned 21) in 1805 and we know that she was still his widow when he died in 1825. Thus there was no opportunity for him to have married a woman named Harris. And it is very peculiar that Mrs. Ramsey did not know of James Junior's marriage to Sally Williams, while purporting such *extensive knowledge* of the rest of the "family." After all, that marriage had occurred in Warren County, Kentucky just a year prior to the marriage of her direct ancestors (and both marriages were almost certainly performed by their father, Elder James Martin, Senior), and they had lived not more than five miles apart in two different states for better than 15 years!

There are a number of approved DAR applications for the James Martin, Junior who is described in Mrs. Ramsey's booklet, eight of which pre-date the earliest approved application for the line of Polly (Martin) Williams.<sup>277</sup> Like Mrs. Ramsey, these applications all claim that an unknown Harris was his wife, and they add that he was born in 1783. And all of them are based upon the lineage of only one child, who was born in 1804: Elizabeth Martin, the wife of Dennis Shea. Per various DAR, Census and other records, it is known that the Sheas were married in the 1820s and both of them died in Georgia. There is scant information available about the Sheas, but no trace of them is found in Indiana.

So, is this the James Martin, Junior that historical records have proven was the brother of Polly (Martin) Williams and son of Elder James Martin? Unequivocally and emphatically, the answer is NO. Thus Polly (Martin) Williams was not the child of Colonel James Martin. The primary proof of this statement is detailed in Chapter 6, where you will see that all of the children of Polly (Martin) Williams' proven brother James are accounted for in a series of deeds that divided up his estate (he had died intestate, so his estate was split amongst all of his heirs). No Elizabeth (Martin) Shea (or her heirs) is among those dividing his estate, nor is there any trace of another, unidentified daughter that would account for this Elizabeth in the 1820 Census records for the household of James Martin, Junior or in the 1840 household of his widow, Sally (Williams) Martin (the 1830 Census includes several members of the family of her second husband, William Steel, so it is of no help in this matter).

Another red herring that was created (or at least perpetuated) by Mrs. Ramsey is the notion that Bennet and Polly (Martin) Williams had a daughter named Obedience, said to

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<sup>277</sup> DAR National #s 151037, 159801, 168255, 180864, 205694, 209905, 222260, 243852, 353376, and 617771.



have been the twin of their daughter Fanny. Some people claim this as circumstantial evidence that Obedience Bugg was Polly's mother, so being able to verify her existence is a key to their arguments. Mrs. Ramsey claimed that this person died in 1859 and was married to a Mr. Lowe.<sup>278</sup> This topic is also dealt with in Chapter 6, where we will examine Bennet Williams' family in greater detail: it is made clear that not a shred of evidence supports the notion that such a person had ever existed, as the children listed in the records of his household in the 1820 and 1830 Census account for all of Bennet's known children as described in his will (which doesn't include Obedience). This person has to have been a fabrication!

So the evidence shows very clearly that the descendants of Polly (Martin) Williams had created a "*Franken-genealogy*" by mistakenly grafting their ancestor onto the family tree of Colonel James Martin. Thus the notion that Colonel James Martin had ever stepped foot in Indiana has been proven to be nothing more than wishful thinking based upon some very flawed conclusions. But unfortunately for serious family history researchers, the printed sources that contain this erroneous information will persist to vex us all for generations to come.

### **Edgefield County, South Carolina**

In fairness to the descendants of Polly (Martin) Williams, there is some intriguing evidence that there might have been a connection to Colonel James Martin. That is in the form of two deeds executed on 10 Jan 1788 and 15 Jan 1793 in Edgefield County, South Carolina by "James Martin and Milly, his wife."<sup>279</sup> This James Martin lived in the vicinity of known associates of Colonel James Martin, and in the 1790 Census for Edgefield County (the same year when there is a near perfect match there for Obedience [Bugg] Martin's household) he had a household of eight consisting of three males under age 16, one male over age 16 and four females. He was involved in three different deeds with Simon Martin, and he and Simon both received land grants in Edgefield County just two months apart in 1785. While their relationship to one another is not known, it certainly appears that they were likely brothers, as they were living just two doors apart in the 1790 Census.

Based upon what is proven about Elder James Martin's family, the James Martin in the 1790 Census for Edgefield County, South Carolina is one possible match among the several James Martins in the Census records for the entire state of South Carolina. Based upon the speculations about Elder James Martin's family as presented in the preceding section, the 1790 Edgefield County household of James Martin is the only good match in the entire 1790 Census for South Carolina. The trouble is there is no direct evidence that James Martin was in South Carolina by 1790 (if the speculation is correct that the father of Littleberry Martin was Elder James Martin's brother, then there is indirect evidence that he was in South Carolina by that time). We have proof that he was in South Carolina

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<sup>278</sup> *Looking Backward Ten Generations: With Connected Families* by Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey (after 1934), page 26.

<sup>279</sup> *Edgefield County, South Carolina, Abstract of Deed Books 1-12, 1786-1796, Volume One* by Ge Lee Corley Hendrix, C. G. (1985), pages 39 and 167-168 (from *Deed Book 3*, pages 260-265 and *Deed Book 11*, pages 72-74).

around 1792, based upon the 1850 Census record for his proven son Charles. We don't have direct evidence of where any of his *older* proven or speculated children were born, because none survived to see the 1850 Census. So it could well be that the James Martin in the 1790 Census for Edgefield County was Elder James Martin, but that same person was definitely not Colonel James Martin, since all but one of Colonel James Martin's children are accounted in the Census record of Obedience (Bugg) Martin.

Colonel James Martin was alive in 1800 when a memorial for President George Washington was held in Edgefield District, South Carolina.<sup>280</sup> My speculation is that the Colonel may have been the James Martin who partnered with Francis Bremar, a former South Carolina state surveyor. They speculated in land on the frontier, as there are many deed records of their partnership in the northern portion of South Carolina. If so, that would explain why there aren't two James Martins in the 1790 Census for Edgefield County, South Carolina, and it might also offer some insight as to why he was no longer living with his wife, Obedience (Bugg) Martin. It will be up to future researchers to confirm or refute that theory.

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<sup>280</sup> *Our Nation Builders* by Mr. Lula (Long) Martin (1947), pages 47 and 48.

## THE PREWITTS/PRUITTS

Richard A. Prewitt has done considerable research covering the many Prewitt-Pruitt families found throughout the United States, authoring close to 30 books about these families. Of particular interest to us is his book *Moses Pruitt, Sr. & Rachel: Their Descendants* (1997). While the book chronicles several generations of Pruitts that preceded the Moses Pruitt who married Phebe Williams, we'll only review Moses' parents and grandparents, as corroborating that information is sufficient for our purposes. The following is taken from page 19:

*"(1) **MOSES B. PRUITT** (son of **Moses Pruitt, Sr.** and **Rachel**) was born in Spartanburg Co., SC on April 18, 1786. He married **Phoebe Williams** in Warren Co., KY on June 18, 1805. **Phoebe** was born in Culpepper [sic] Co., VA on Feb. 6, 1781 to **Simon Williams** and **Polly Ann**."*

On page 15 of the same book Richard A. Prewitt tells us what he knows of Moses B. Pruitt's father:

*"**MOSES PRUITT, SR.** (son of **David Pruitt** and **Amy**) was born in Halifax Co., VA about 1764 and married **Rachel**. The following sons are known:*

- "(1) **Moses B. Pruitt**, b. April 18, 1786 Spartanburg Co., SC*
- "(2) **Abraham Pruitt**, b. 1787 Spartanburg Co., SC*
- "(3) **William Pruitt**, b. 1790 Spartanburg Co., SC*
- "(4) **David Pruitt**, b. 1800 Spartanburg Co., SC"*

(NOTE: On page 16 of Richard A. Prewitt's analysis of records related to Moses Pruitt, Senior he describes his 1810 Census record, which is accurate. It is worth noting that this record is incorrectly indexed at Ancestry.com, reporting that Moses and Rachel were aged 26-44 rather than both being age 45 or older.)

The basis for the above list of the four known sons of Moses Senior is found on page 76 of John Jasper Spilman's *History of the Spilman Family* (1909), where he states:

### *"THE PRUITT FAMILY*

*"As the **Spilmans** and **Pruitts** have become related by marriage, I will give a short sketch of them.*

*"On or about the year 1800, there were several **Pruitts** who came to Allen County, Kentucky from one of the Carolinas. Some of them went to Indiana, but there were four brothers who stopped there: **Abram**, **Moses**, **David** and **William**. In a few years, **Moses** and **David** left; **Abram** and **William** stayed. They were illiterate. **Thomas Sutton** was sheriff and he had business with them, and when he went to write their name they could not spell it for him, so he wrote the name '**Pruitt**,' with the remark, 'they couldn't call it anything else.'" Others wrote the*

name in different ways, thus, **Pruit**, **Pruet**, **Prewit**, and **Prewet**. I think they all belong to the same family.”

John Jasper Spilman was born in Allen County, Kentucky in 1827 and he left there around 1846. His primary source of information of the older generations, as discussed in his book, was the personal knowledge of his uncle, Levi Spilman, who was born in 1798 and died 1876. John Jasper Spilman was also a younger brother of Sally Boucher Spilman (b. 1821, d. 1912) who was the only wife of Simon Williams (the son of Lewis and grandson of Simon), and the fourth wife of John Pruitt (the son of Moses Pruitt and Phebe Williams). So it is reasonably safe to assume that she was the source of his information regarding the Pruitts, as there is no other apparent early connection to them found in his book. With John Pruitt being the son of Moses, he should have had personal knowledge of his grandfather, and thus this account is likely to be very reliable.

However, in the interest of full disclosure, on page 369 of Robert E. Turman’s book<sup>281</sup> is the following statement: “*In more recent years, I understand that descendants have determined it was Col. Joseph Prewitt of Kentucky who was the father of our Armstrong Township settler, Mose [sic] Pruitt, who lived until 1839.*” On page 365 of the same book he attributed this belief to descendant Darby Scott (who died in 1983). Earlier on the same page, it was claimed that Michael Prewitt, Jr., brother of Colonel Joseph Prewitt, was claimed to be the father of our Moses Pruitt. Both claims are easily discredited. See *Volume 2, Addendum 2* for more discussion of this topic.



Sally Boucher Spilman,  
from the collection of Jennifer Hopes.

In his book, Richard A. Prewitt goes into an analysis of Moses Pruitt’s Warren County tax records, though it is often difficult to distinguish which Moses the records refer to. However, the 1806 list (right after Moses and Phebe were married) is the first time the two Moses Pruitts appear side by side, though they aren’t noted as being Junior and Senior. In that list the first Moses only paid the poll tax. The second Moses also paid the poll tax and was also taxed for one horse and for 100 acres of third rate land on the waters of Bays Creek which had been entered by M. Pruitt. In the 1805 Census, Moses Pruitt [Senior] was not taxed for land, but paid the poll tax and was taxed for two horses. That suggests that it was the younger Moses who was the land owner.

<sup>281</sup> *The Genealogy Newspaper Columns of Robert E. Turman*, Tri-State Genealogical Society (1987).

The one niggling little detail that leaves some remaining doubt of how Moses Senior, Moses Junior, Abram, William and David are all related is where their records show up in relation to one another in the 1810 Census for Warren County, Kentucky: Moses Junior is the third entry shown on sheet #14 (as numbered by Ancestry.com), while Moses Senior and Abram are the last two entries on sheet #19. Neither Moses is found in Allen County for the 1820 Census, but “Ab” Pruitt and David Pruitt are found there at that time living side-by-side. Living next to Ab is Drury Watts, who in the 1810 Census is the abutting neighbor of Moses Junior. Thus, while the 1810 Census sheets are numbered 19 and 14, it would seem this does not indicate the order that the households were actually enumerated by the census taker. It seems clear that sheet 14 is actually a continuation of sheet 19 and that the households of interest were enumerated in the following order in 1810:

- Moses Pruitt
- Abram Pruitt
- Louisa McGuire (neighbor)
- Drury Watts (neighbor)
- Moses Pruitt

There may be a relationship to Drury Watts, inasmuch as Moses Pruitt, Senior had a brother, Drury Pruitt, who is said to have remained in South Carolina with their father. Likewise, Louisa McGuire was likely a widow and could have originally been a Pruitt or a close relative of a Pruitt spouse.

To further add to our comfort in concluding that all of these individuals are related, the relationship of Abraham Pruitt to his parents is proven by Ancestry.com’s *Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1953* (2007), where it lists “Abram Pruitte” b. about 1787, d. 20 Oct 1856 in Allen County, Kentucky, and the names of his parents are given as “Moses Pruitte” and “Racheel Pruitte.”

According to the considerable research of Richard A. Prewitt, David Pruitt (the father of Moses Senior) was born in Goochland County, Virginia Colony (present day central Virginia, but then the western frontier), and had moved to Halifax County around 1747. He likely left by 1767, but does not show up in records of Spartanburg, South Carolina until 1780. In 1785 he was granted land there. He is also found there in the 1790 Census, where household members match well with his known children. Anyone interested in the ancestral origins of the Pruitts should seek out Richard A. Prewitt’s book for more details about earlier generations (it is available at [books.familysearch.org](http://books.familysearch.org)).



## THE ROOKS

The Rook family is a bit more of a mystery than the other families that Simon's children had married into. No cemetery records are found for them that allow us to confirm the correct spelling of their surname (which is also found spelled Rooks or Rooke), and records for their family are fairly scarce. Since the biography of William Martin gives his mother's maiden name as Frankie Rook, that is the spelling that will be used in this book.<sup>282</sup> However, there may be several variant spellings in use by various branches of this family.

We know from the evidence reviewed in Chapter 2 that the mother of Elizabeth Rook (wife of Simon's son John) was the widow Margaret Rook. Margaret had married Joseph Price some time after 25 Mar 1818, when she received the patent on 160 acres of land in Harmony Township. And they were definitely married prior to 6 Oct 1829, when they gifted forty acres of land to John Williams (the husband of her daughter, Elizabeth Rook). Margaret had made the initial entry on her 160 acre property on 18 May 1814.<sup>283</sup>

The 1820 Census for Joseph Price contains, in addition to himself, three females: one over 45 years of age, one aged 16 to 25, and one under age ten. Whether the woman over age 45 was Margaret Rook cannot be determined, as record of their marriage was not found in any of the surrounding counties. It is possible that the other two females were her widowed daughter and granddaughter: Susannah Rook (who is discussed further on the next page) was said to have married James Waldron, but no trace of his household is found in the 1820 or later Census records.

The 1820 Census for Gibson County, Indiana shows the household of Elijah Rook, which contained two males: one who was between the ages of 26 and 44, and the other who was over 45 years old. The household contains women of the same age range, so one possibility is that there were two married couples in the household. As such, it is difficult to know if the elder or younger male was the head of household. They were living in the neighborhood that James Martin, Junior had lived in, just to the west of Owensville. Thus this Elijah could have been the son, brother-in-law or father-in-law of the widow Margaret Rook.

An uncited source states that both Margaret and Joseph Price died shortly after the 1840 Census, but neither is found mentioned in *Posey County, Indiana Probate Docket, Volume 2 (1840-1845)*. Carroll O. Cox records their graves as being located in Carnahan [sic: Callahan] Cemetery, as follows:<sup>284</sup>

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<sup>282</sup> *History of Vanderburgh County, Indiana* by Brant and Fuller (1889), page 674.

<sup>283</sup> *Genealogy Lists of Posey County, IN, Volume I* by Darlene McConnell (1996), page 64.

<sup>284</sup> *Posey County[,Indiana] Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carroll O. Cox (1979), page 141.

**“PRICE**

**Joseph**, born in Huntington [sic: Hunterdon] Co. New Jersey

Feb. 7, 1758

Feb. 15, 1843

Soldier in Rev.

**Margarett**, his wife, died March 1, 1842

Aged 68 years.”

The 1850 Census tells us that Elizabeth (Rook) Williams was born in 1802 in South Carolina. That would imply that her mother was born no later than about 1784, and the above information from Cox places the actual date around 1774. There are other Rook marriages that may or may not have been Margarett’s children:

1. On 16 Jul 1812, Frankie Rook married Charles Martin in Knox County, Indiana Territory. The ceremony was performed by Elder James Martin. They remained in Vanderburgh County, close to where Elder James Martin had lived.
2. On 9 Apr 1815, Sally Rook married John Basil Rachels in Gibson County. Elder James Martin performed the ceremony. He patented the SW ¼ NW ¼ of Section 36, T3S, R14W on 1 Oct 1835, which was about six miles north of Margaret’s property.
3. On 10 Jul 1818, Susannah Rook married James Waldron or Walrond in Gibson County. No marriage return was recorded, so it is not known who performed the ceremony. James had made a land entry for the SE ¼ of Section 21, T3S, R14W on 6 Mar 1816 (about 3 miles southwest of Cynthiana), but the patent was issued to the heirs of Abraham Wells on 26 May 1828, suggesting that prior to that time Abraham Wells had acquired interest in the land, either from James or from James’ estate.

With Elizabeth being the last to marry (on 8 Nov 1818), it is certainly possible that these were all daughters of the widow Margarett Rook. But there is a somewhat less likely possibility that one or more of them were the children of one of the men in the Elijah Rook household found in the 1820 Census for Gibson County.

And Carroll and Gloria Cox provide the statement that “*The N.W. ¼ of section 27 was entered by **William Rogers** who married a daughter of **Margaret Rooks**.*”<sup>285</sup> The given name of this daughter is not known, and no record of this marriage exists in Gibson, Knox, Posey, or Vanderburgh County. In William Rogers’ will, dated 8 Nov 1842, his wife at the time of his death was named Jane, but several undocumented family trees claim that her maiden name was McFadden.<sup>286</sup> Are they mistaken? Were the Coxes mistaken? Are both right and Margarett’s daughter died early in the marriage? At present, the answers to these questions remain elusive.

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<sup>285</sup> *Posey County, Indiana, Information from Newspaper Files in the New Harmony Library* by Carroll O. and Gloria Cox (typescript, no date), handwritten page number 27 (originally page 17).

<sup>286</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Wills, Book B*, page 79.

## CHAPTER 6:

### SIMON'S CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

We now know with certainty the identity of most of Simon Williams' children, and we have a high degree of confidence in the fact that four unproven daughters were also his children. So now is a good time to learn as much as possible about each of his children and *their* children, as doing so will only improve our confidence that the latter four women were his daughters. The information in each of the following sections comes from many sources: census information, tax records, real estate transactions, estate records, tombstones, marriage records, biographies or any other information that helps in establishing Simon's grandchildren by each of his children. To help future researchers, an attempt will also be made, here and elsewhere throughout this book, to note records that were sought, but not found.

Each of the following sections begins with a review of the known facts (presented in more or less chronological order) about the family members of each of Simon's children; this helps to reinforce the inter-relatedness of most of these individuals, while also helping to assure that no facts are overlooked. The result of each of these compilations of fact is a list of Simon's proven grandchildren by each of his children, which is then compared against pre-1850 Census records. For those households that appear to have had additional children for whom there is no direct evidence of their parentage, these additional children will be investigated and an attempt made to determine their identities. The results of this effort are shown on the charts on the following two pages.

The following sections are arranged in as close to birth order as we can be certain of, since there is some confusion created by the list of children provided to us by Mrs. Ramsey.

## SIMON WILLIAMS' PROVEN GRANDCHILDREN: BY HIS SONS

<b>Bennet WILLIAMS &amp; Polly Martin</b>  John b. 1808 Milly b. 1810 Simon b. 1812 Fanny b. 1814 James b. 1816 Sally b. 1818 Nancy b. 1821 Elizabeth b. 1823 Elias b. 1825 Matilda b. 1828 Silas b. 1830 Bailey b. 1833	<b>Lewis WILLIAMS &amp; Elender Cater</b>  Elizabeth b. 1810 James b. 1812 Simon b. 1816 Lucinda b. 1820 Perry b. 1825 Permelia b. 1827 Audra b. 1830	<b>John WILLIAMS &amp; Elizabeth Rook</b>  Matilda b. 1823 Pamelia b. 1825 William b. 1829 Mitty Anne b. 1830 Felix b. 1832 Nathaniel b. 1835 Charlotte b. 1837 John b. 1839	
<b>George WILLIAMS &amp; Audra Journey</b>  Thornton b. 1820 Martha b. 1822 James b. 1823 Asbury b. 1824 Romelia b. 1829	<b>William WILLIAMS &amp; Martha Allen</b>  Polly b. 1814 Elizabeth b. 1816 Mahala b. 1818 Eliza Ann b. 1827 Emory b. 1832 William b. 1834 Enoch b. 1838	<b>Enoch WILLIAMS &amp; Lydia Lowe</b>  William b. 1820 James b. 1821 Greenberry b. 1823 Henry b. 1825 Matilda b. 1828 Malinda b. 1830 Lucinda b. 1834 John b. 1834	

## SIMON WILLIAMS' PROVEN GRANDCHILDREN: BY HIS DAUGHTERS

<b>Phebe Williams &amp; Moses PRUITT</b>  John b. 1806 William b. 1807 Polly b. 1812 Simon b. 1813 Patsy b. 1815 Phoebe b. 1820 Juliet b. 1822 Emelina b. 1824 Elvina b. 1824	<b>Sally Williams &amp; James MARTIN</b>  George b. 1807 Bailey b. 1810 William b. 1811 John b. 1813 Patsy b. 1819 Andrew b. 1820 David b. 1822 Leroy b. 1826	<b>Winnie Williams &amp; Sampson JOHNSON</b>  Polly b. 1812 Zachariah b. 1821	<b>Jemima Williams &amp; Joseph CATER</b>  Daniel b. 1819 Thomas b. 1822 Paulina b. 1823 Greenberry b. 1825 Melissa b. 1827 Nancy b. 1828 Elizabeth b. 1830 William b. 1832 Ordry b. 1835 Bennett b. 1837 Samuel b. 1840
<b>Nelly Williams &amp; Lewis HARMON</b>  Lewis b. 1805 Elizabeth b. 1806 Polly b. 1808 Syrack b. 1814 Bennett b. 1810-20 James b. 1819	<b>Polly Williams &amp; William HARMON</b>  George b. 1810 Simon b. 1810 Micajah b. 1815 Joel b. 1818 Andrew b. 1819 Ewing b. 1825 John b. 1827 Elizabeth b. 1827 Bailey b. 1836	<b>Anna Williams &amp; George JOHNSON</b>  Eliza b. 1825 Levi b. 1825	



## PHEBE WILLIAMS & MOSES PRUITT

Moses Pruitt was born on 18 Apr 1786 in Spartanburg County, South Carolina.<sup>287</sup> He and Phebe Williams were married on or after 3 Jun 1805 in Warren County, Kentucky, which was when David Benson and Moses Pruitt posted the marriage bond.<sup>288</sup> (Unconfirmed sources state that David Benson's first wife was Polly or Patty Pruitt, which, though unproven, would help explain why he posted bond for the wedding and why Moses posted bond a decade later when David was arrested.) 3 Jun 1805 also happened to be the day that James Martin and Simon Williams posted the bond that allowed Elder James Martin to perform marriages in Warren County, Kentucky, and analysis in Chapter 4 conclude that he had likely performed their marriage.

On 21 Aug 1805 Moses Prewitt, Senior paid taxes in Warren County, Kentucky for one white male over age 21 and two horses.<sup>289</sup> That was the same day that David Benson, Simon Williams, Micajah Harmon and Lewis Harmon had also paid their taxes. The record doesn't indicate where Simon was living, but Micajah and Lewis were living on the waters of Drakes Creek.

There are two Moses Pruitts who paid taxes in Warren County, Kentucky on 22 May 1806. The first Moses (probably Senior) paid only the poll tax. The second (probably Junior), listed immediately after him, was living on 100 acres on the waters of Bays Creek and also paid the poll tax. There was no suffix written after either name.<sup>290</sup>

In 1807 and 1809 Moses paid taxes for 100 acres of third rate land on Bays Fork that had been entered by Royal Potter. In both years he also paid the poll tax and was taxed for one horse.<sup>291,292</sup> He was the only Moses Pruitt found on those lists.

On 20 Jan 1810 Moses was a witness to the marriage in Warren County, Kentucky of Lewis Williams and Elender Cater. Later that summer he was counted there as part of the Federal Census.

On page 670 of *History of Vanderburgh County, Indiana* by Brant and Fuller (1889) is the following statement: "Among the earliest settlers was Moses Pruitt, who came to the township [Armstrong township] prior to 1810." This is almost immediately contradicted in the following biography, which appears a few pages later, on pages 674 and 675.

*"HON. JOHN F. PRUITT is the third of eight children born to William and Elizabeth Pruitt, among the earliest pioneers of the county. The father was born December 10, 1806 in Allen county, Ky., and the mother, whose maiden name was*

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<sup>287</sup> *Moses Pruitt, Sr. & Rachel, Their Descendants* by Richard A. Prewitt (1997), page 18.

<sup>288</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Marriages, 1797-1851 from the original marriage bonds and consents* by Helen Thomas et al (1970)

<sup>289</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1805, List 1*, page 14, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>290</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1806, List 2*, page 16, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>291</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1807, List 2*, page 19, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>292</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1809, List 1*, page 52, FHL microfilm #8255.

*Elizabeth A. Spain, was born in 1816, near Harper's Ferry, Va. In 1810 William Pruitt came with his parents, Moses and Phoebe (Williams) Pruitt, to settle in the Indiana woods, and in his youth labored as the old settlers did, gaining also the education to be obtained in the log cabin schools of those days. He was county commissioner for nine years, and major of the militia, then necessary for protection from the Indians*"

A number of records call into question Moses' 1810 arrival in Indiana Territory.

In 1811, we again find Moses living on 100 acres on the waters of "Baysfork" and being taxed for three horses and paying the poll tax. Listed immediately after him were Abraham and Moses Pruitt, both of whom paid the poll tax and were taxed for one horse each.<sup>293</sup>

On 2 Jan 1813, George Williams and Moses Pruitt were witness to the survey of 75 acres in Warren County, Kentucky that had been assigned from Samuel Thompson to Simon Williams.<sup>294</sup> In the 1813 tax lists for Warren County, Abraham Pruitt and Moses Pruitt are found listed side-by-side. Neither is taxed for land. Abraham pays the poll tax and is taxed for two horses, and Moses pays the poll for two men over age 21 and is taxed for two horses.<sup>295</sup>



*John Felix Pruitt  
Grandson of Moses and Phebe  
Photo courtesy of Linda Thaxton.*

As noted earlier, in Mar 1815 Moses Pruitt and William Benson were in Gibson County Circuit Court being sued by John Armstrong for slander. So Moses arrived in Indiana Territory between mid-1813 and early 1815, so he likely arrived during 1814 with the first wave of Simon Williams' family.

On 2 Oct 1816, a Moses 'Prewitt' of Allen County (formerly Warren County), Kentucky appointed John Wills of Allen County as his attorney to draw and receive pay "which I am entitled to for a six month tower [sic] of duty as a private in Captain Thomas Griffins Company of Infantry belonging to the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment Kentucky detached militia."<sup>296</sup> A few days earlier, Alexander Chambers had hired a different attorney to collect money due him from the 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment under Captain Thomas Griffins. His affidavit adds that Captain Griffins was under the command of General John Thomas) and the command of General Andrew Jackson.<sup>297</sup>

<sup>293</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1811, List 1, page 49, FHL microfilm #8255.*

<sup>294</sup> *South of Green River Series Kentucky Land Grants, Book 15, page 323, Survey #11327, Certificate #6987, Kentucky Secretary of State.*

<sup>295</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1813, List 1, page 48, FHL microfilm #8255.*

<sup>296</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Deeds, Book B 1815-1819, page 77.*

<sup>297</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Deeds, Book B 1815-1819, page 76.*

Was this our Moses Pruitt? Regarding the above, Richard A. Prewitt asserts:<sup>298</sup>

*“Note: the **Moses Pruitt** that served in the War of 1812 in Capt. **Thomas Griffin’s** Company, Nov. 1814 to May 1815, was the one that married **Polly Shipley** in Allen Co., KY on Jan. 31 1817. He was a widower in the 1830 Census, Allen Co., KY, age 30-40.”*

It turns out that the above Moses Prewitt served from 20 Nov 1814 to 20 May 1815. He was present when the Battle of New Orleans was fought on 5 Jan 1815. John Thompson, one of the members of his militia regiment, is said to have died in the “town of Orleans” around 10 Mar 1815.<sup>299</sup> As noted earlier, on 1 Feb 1815 John Armstrong had challenged David Benson to a duel with muskets. James Rice Waters posted his bond, with William Benson and Moses Pruitt posting bond for David Benson. This latter Moses Pruitt is almost certainly our Moses, given his close association over time with David Benson. If he had served at New Orleans, he would have been AWOL in Mar 1815, which was two months before the latter’s enlistment was up. It seems Richard A. Prewitt was correct about this issue.

In 1818 there is record of Moses Pruitt voting in an election at the “forks of Big Creek” in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.<sup>300</sup> It is interesting to note some of those who also voted: Joseph Cater (the husband of Jemima Williams and sibling of Elender Cater, wife of Lewis Williams) and three Martins – Elder James and his sons, Thomas and Charles.

On 2 Oct 1818 Moses purchased “land on waters of Big Creek, S. side of SW¼ of Sec. 29, T4S, R11W” in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana from Patrick Calvert and Sarah, his wife (the daughter of Elder James Martin), for \$120.<sup>301</sup> It was signed and recorded on 9 Mar 1819. Witnesses were Joseph Cater (husband of Phebe’s sister, Jemima) and David Broomfield [sic: Brumfield].<sup>302</sup>

Proof of Moses Pruitt’s relationship to one of his sons is noted in an 1826 Vanderburgh County marriage consent. John Pruitt was not yet 21 years old when he married, and thus needed his father’s permission to marry.<sup>303</sup> A copy of his father’s written consent is transcribed below and the actual consent is shown on the page that follows.<sup>304</sup>

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<sup>298</sup> *Moses Pruitt, Sr. & Rachel, Their Descendants* by Richard A. Prewitt (1997), page 16.

<sup>299</sup> *Allen County, Kentucky Deeds, Book B 1815-1819*, page 101.

<sup>300</sup> *History of Vanderburgh County, Indiana*, Brant and Fuller (1889), page 574.

<sup>301</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book A*, page 23.

<sup>302</sup> At the Feb Term of the Vanderburgh County Probate Court Moses Pruitt and James Calvert presented an inventory of the estate of David Brumfield, who had died in early 1836.

<sup>303</sup> Page 16 of *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Marriage Records, 1818-1840* by Ruth M. Slevin (1974).

<sup>304</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Marriage Returns, Apr 1818 to Nov 1854*, microfilm # 1479310, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

*"Mr. James Jones*

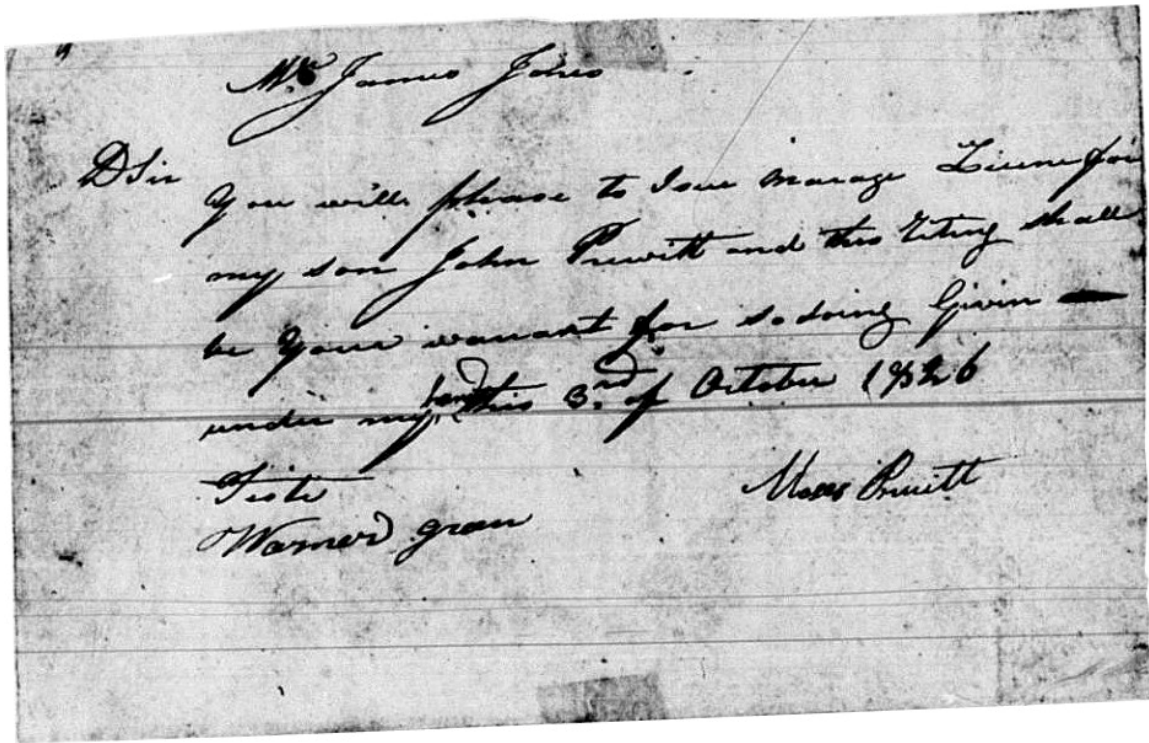
*"D Sir*

*"You will please to give marriage license to my son **John Pruitt** and this writing shall be your warrant for so doing. Given under my hand this 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 1826.*

*"Test*

*Moses Pruitt*

*"Warner Green"*



On 21 May 1831 Moses and Phebe sold back to Patrick Calvert for \$240 the property that they had acquired from him in 1818.<sup>305</sup> He then moved half a mile to the south and on 8 Dec 1831 he became the original patentee for the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 32, T4S, R11W (as shown on the map on the following page). On the same day, William Pruitt patented the 80 acres immediately to the south. Two weeks later, on 31 Dec 1831, John Pruitt patented the 80 acres abutting directly to the north of Moses' property. Four years after that (on 15 Oct 1835), Simon Pruitt purchased 80 acres ¼ mile due east of Moses' property, and added an additional 40 acres on 1 Feb 1839.

Moses wasted no time in optimizing the use of his newly acquired property. The following map helps to give context to his request in Dec 1831 to realign the road running through his Section 32 property (present day Highway 65):<sup>306</sup>

*"Now here **Moses Perrit** [sic: **Pruitt**] files his petition for a change of so much of the road from Evansville to Cynthiana as lies between a Hicory [sic] Seventeen*

<sup>305</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book B, page 288.

<sup>306</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Commissioners Records, Book D (typed transcription), page 10.



rods north of **Henry Ewings** old horse Mill and a White Oak tree that is on the south side of **Moses [Pruitt's]** plantation. By the Board of Commissioners, **Samuel M. Perritt** [sic: **McDonald**], **Patrick Calvert** & **John McCreary** are appointed reviewers to review the route proposed in said petition & it is ordered that said viewers make report of their proceedings herein at the next session of this board."

Henry Ewin (Zadock McNew)		John Prewitt	William Benson	Michael D Robinson	John Prewitt		Christian Wallen- maier	Township 4 South	Vanderburgh County	
James Williams		Moses Prewitt	Henry Ewin	Simon Prewitt	Burrel T Robinson	George Wallenmaier				
Henry Ewin	Matthias Houser	William Prewitt	Samuel McDonald	William Martin	Charles Martin	Jacob Moall	Alexander Powell	Township 5 South		
Elsberry Rogers	Berry Martin	Lawrence Herbert		John Brose	Charles Martin	Ingals W Barns	Philip F Marstetter			John Burns
William Rogers										

*Pruitt patents in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.*

The record of their report of 29 Dec 1831 is as follows:<sup>307</sup>

"Now here comes the viewers appointed at the last Session of the Board of Commissioner to view a road on the petition of **Moses Trewit** [sic: **Pruitt**] and make report of their proceedings herein as follows to wit: Agreeably to an order of the Commissioners Court of Vanderburgh County We the undersigned who were appointed to view the road mentioned in petition of **Moses [Pruitt]** have Viewed the same road and find the new road from the point designated in the

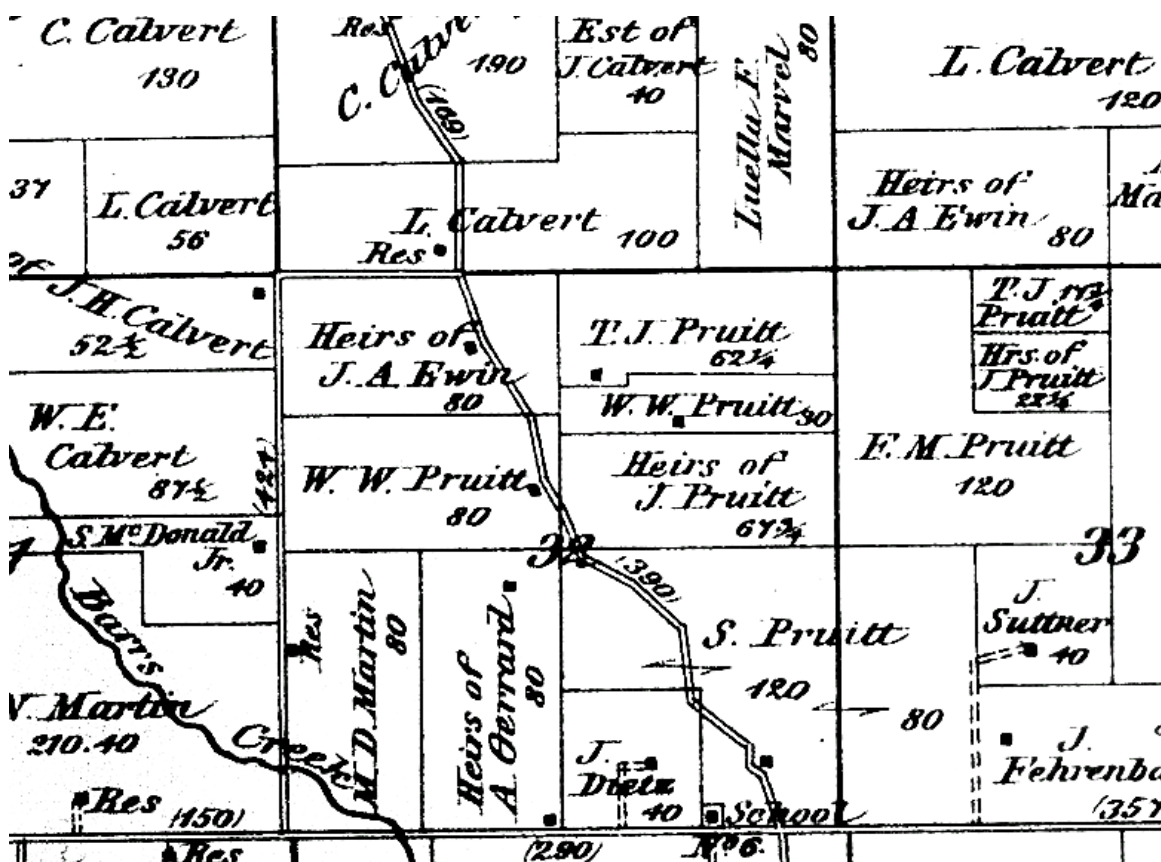
<sup>307</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Commissioners Records, Book D (typed transcription), page 19.



petition ninety seven yards distance up thru the old road and equally as good ground. Given under our hands and seals this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December 1831 **Saml McDonald** (seal) **Patrick Calvert** (seal) **John McCreary** (seal) where on it is ordered by this Board of Commissioners that the change prayed in said petition of said **Moses [Pruitt]** of said road made and that said **[Pruitt]** proceed to open said route agreeable to said petition and report.”

The new road alignment was completed by the May 1832 session of the Board of Commissioners. The same men exchanged roles in 1833 to realign a portion of the same road that passed through Samuel McDonald’s land. And in 1834 it was Henry Ewing’s turn (John Williams took the place of Samuel McDonald as viewer of this realignment).

<sup>308</sup> No doubt his other neighbors followed suit.



The road through Moses Pruitt’s property as it appeared in 1880.

From Griffing’s Atlas of Vanderburgh County, Indiana by D. J. Lake and Co. (1880).

On 7 Dec 1835, Moses Pruitt sold to Young Ewing for \$150 the E ½ SE ¼ of Section 32, T4S, R11W, with James Calvert and John H. Craig as witnesses.<sup>309</sup>

<sup>308</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Commissioners Records, Book D (typed transcription), pages 39, 85, 89 and 123.

<sup>309</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book C, page 366.

During the February 1836 Term of the Vanderburgh County Probate Court, Moses Pruitt and James Calvert returned an inventory dated 30 Jan 1836 for the estate of David Brumfield (who had served as one of the first Commissioners for Vanderburgh County).<sup>310</sup>

The last public records of Moses Pruitt is a deed dated 25 Mar 1837 where he and Phebe sell the SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 32, T4S, R11W to their son, Simon Pruitt, for \$100.<sup>311</sup>

Richard A. Prewitt claims that:<sup>312</sup>

*“Moses B. Pruitt died in Armstrong Twp., Vanderburgh Co., IN on April 6, 1839, and was buried at the old farm outside Cynthiana, Indiana.”*

Thus it would seem that there is an unmarked grave for him at the Simon Williams Family Cemetery.

Phebe (Williams) Pruitt is found in the 1850 Census living with her daughter, Phoebe Elizabeth Pruitt, wife of Samuel Montgomery. Despite Turman’s statement that Phebe (Williams) Pruitt had died in 1858 (and some trees on Ancestry.com more specifically asserting that she had died on 6 Jun 1858 in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana), she is found in Armstrong Township living with the family of her son, Simon Pruitt, on 29 Jun 1860.<sup>313</sup> Thus she most likely died at some point between then and 1870.

Charles Raymond Dillon’s *Pruitt-Prewitt Ancestors* (typescript, 1960), on pages 97 and 98, lists eight children of Moses Pruitt (Mr. Dillon was the Director of the Pruitt-Prewitt Family Associates when he published this book). The likely source of his information is John F. Pruitt (b. 1835, d. 1924), whose biography is cited above.<sup>314</sup> John, being Moses Pruitt’s grandson, almost certainly knew the names of his all of his aunts and uncles, as given below (for the sake of simplicity, the listing of grandchildren has been edited out):

*“The late **JOHN F. PRUITT** of Cynthiana, Indiana, developed the following information:*

*“**MOSES PRUITT** was a resident of Allen County, Kentucky. He married **PHOEBE WILLIAMS**, second child of **SIMON WILLIAMS**. They moved to Vandenberg [sic] County about 1810 and to this family was [sic] born eight children, as follows:*

***JOHN PRUITT**, married four times and raised fourteen children...*

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<sup>310</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Probates, Complete Record #1, page 317.

<sup>311</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book E, page 194.

<sup>312</sup> *Moses Pruitt, Sr. & Rachel: Their Descendants* by Richard A. Prewitt (1997), page 20.

<sup>313</sup> This is found on page 93 of the 1860 Census. This page is missing from the 1860 Census records found on both Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest. Thanks are due to Beth Wilson for tracking down this information. A copy of this Census page is provided at the end of this section.

<sup>314</sup> The only John Pruitt found in the known male descendants of Moses B. Pruitt are his son John Pruitt (who died in 1874) and his grandson, the subject of the cited biography.

**WILLIAM PRUITT**, born in Allen County, Kentucky in 1808. In 1810 he came to Vanderberg County, Indiana. He married **ELIZABETH SPAIN**, whose parents came from Virginia...

**SIMON PRUITT**, who married...

**MARY PRUITT**

**EMALINE PRUITT**

**ELVINA PRUITT**

**JULIET PRUITT**

**ELIZABETH PRUITT**”

An additional source confirms the account credited to John F. Pruitt, adding additional details. In *Moses Pruitt, Sr. & Rachel: their descendants* by Richard A. Prewitt (1997), page 19 it is noted that there were actually two Elvinas: one, b. 1810, who had died in infancy, and the other b. 1825. He also adds a tenth child, Martha “Patsy” Pruitt, b. 4 Oct 1815 in Gibson County.

Richard A. Prewitt’s account is supported by the following deed abstract found on page 20 of his book:<sup>315</sup>

*“On Dec. 17, 1850, John Prewitt et all to Simon Prewitt of Vanderburgh County for \$500, the W ½ of SE ¼ of 32-4-11 & NE ¼ of SE ¼ of 32-4-11. The following heirs signed the deed: Isaiah Wilkinson and Mary [Pruitt] Wilkinson of Gibson County; William C. Wasson and Emelina [Pruitt] Wasson of Gibson County; John Prewite and Elizabeth [Holcomb] Prewite of Vanderburgh County; Nelson Martin and Elvina [Pruitt] Martin of Gibson County; William Prewite and Elizabeth [Spain] Prewite of Vanderburgh County. Witnesses: William S. Brumfield and Phebe Prewitt.”*

Missing from the above deed are Patsy (who had died earlier that year), Phoebe Elizabeth and Juliet. By 1853 Phoebe Elizabeth was living in Logan County, Illinois and may have recorded a deed there giving up her interest in the property. Juliet was living in Gibson County at the 1850 Census, so her absence from the deed is more puzzling, though it is possible she recorded her deed in that county.

It is interesting to note that Juliet and Emelina both married on the same day in 1839 and that Phoebe and Martha both married sons of Robin and Patience (Marvel) Montgomery. Regarding the latter, a short typewritten article entitled *Our Montgomery Family 1780-1968* by Paul Kaspar Montgomery (1969)<sup>316</sup> tells us a little about them. The author was a 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandson of Phebe (Williams) Pruitt:

*“The first Montgomery ancestor that we know about is Robert Montgomery, born about 1780 [1796 is written in pencil in the margin], lived in Greene County,*

<sup>315</sup> No source file was given, but this refers to *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book U*, page 258.

<sup>316</sup> This story appeared in *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*, Volume 106, Number 5, May 1972. It was entitled Louisiana – The Miscellaneous Records. The Montgomery Family 1780-1968. Presented by the General William Montgomery Chapter, Bastrop, Louisiana.

Georgia till about 1810, and then moved to Gibson County, Indiana. He lived near Patoka, Indiana with a **Mr. Moore** for awhile.

“We don’t know much about **Robert’s** life in Georgia, but what we do know is this. He was a school teacher. He attended the Presbyterian Church. He had a brother, **James**, and a sister, **Martha**, who remained in Georgia. He was acquainted with the **Knowles**, **Wilson** and **Marvel** families in Georgia.

“After **Robert**, who was called **Robin** by his family and friends, moved to Gibson County, Indiana the **Knowles**, **Marvel** and **Wilson** families prepared to make the change, too. As soon as they arrived in Indiana, they got in touch with **Robert**, and he came down to where they had settled on the Black River in Gibson County. In Indiana, it seems someone of the Methodist faith had been prosyliting [sic: prosthelytizing], for records show that **Robert** became a Methodist shortly after moving down on the Black River. He often visited the **Marvel** family and they were ardent Methodists, having a group of worshipers in their home, and conducting services there. As he often visited the **Marvel** family, ‘**Robin**’ had ample opportunity to observe the **Marvel’s** oldest daughter, **Patience**, as she busied herself about the home, helping her mother with the women’s work. He decided that **Patience** was not only pretty, but a capable girl, and she had many ways about her that kindled love in the heart of **Robert**. The story of his proposal is treasured and handed down in the **Marvel** Family, and **Levin Wilson** included it in his history of the **Knowles** Family. **Ella Yeakel** repeated it in her history of the **Marvel** family. So it seems only natural that I should tell it again as I piece together the known history of the **Montgomery** family.

“One morning he followed the girls, **Patience** and **Comfort**, to the milking gap, where seated on a stump, he made himself useful by holding a calf by the ears while **Patience** milked. As he sat there, he concluded to have this important matter settled, for he suddenly said, ‘**Patia**, will you milk my cows?’ Now **Patience**, like all girls, would have liked to have more romance in a proposal, and she replied rather curtly, ‘No, **Robin**, I will not milk your cows.’ There was silence for a time while **Patience** thought the matter over. She considered **Robin’s** good qualities and her heart softened. She said, ‘Say that again, **Robin**.’ He said, ‘Say what?’ ‘What you said before,’ **Patience** replied. So **Robin** repeated his question and this time **Patience** answered, ‘Yes, **Robin**, I will milk your cows.’ And so, preparations began for her marriage. **Patience** was the first of the children of **Prettyman** and **Lavina (Rogers) Marvel** to leave the family home. She and **Robert (Robin) Montgomery** were married April 30, 1813, by the Methodist Curcuit [sic] riding minister, Rev. **Benjamin Edge**. This was said to be the first marriage in the Black River Basin in the Indiana Territory.”

The above cited work also gives us a few interesting details about Phoebe Elizabeth Pruitt:

*“In the fall of 1881, **Phoebe Elizabeth**, then 61 years old, made a trip to Indiana to visit her relatives there. While there, she fell and broke her hip. Pneumonia came upon her and she died on October 8, 1881. She was buried at Liberty cemetery [sic] near Cynthiana, Indiana for 16 years, and then three of her sons came and removed the remains to place them next to her late husband, **Samuel [Montgomery]**, who had died in January, 1897. In his will he had requested that this be done. They are both side by side now, buried at the Bluegrass [Cemetery] near Beason, Illinois.”*

Richard A. Prewitt tells us:<sup>317</sup>

*“**Phoebe** died in Armstrong Twp., Vanderburgh Co. IN., and was buried in Gottmann Family Cemetery.”*

There is no Gottmann Family Cemetery listed on *Find A Grave*, so the location of Phebe’s grave is currently somewhat of a mystery. Since Phebe had no known connection to the Gottmann family, this bit of information is somewhat dubious, unless the site was originally a graveyard started for a different family.

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<sup>317</sup> *Moses Pruitt, Sr. & Rachel: Their Descendants* by Richard A. Prewitt (1997), page 20.



## Proven Children

Thus, there are public records and reliable historical accounts that establish the identities of the following children of Moses and Phebe Pruitt:

1. **John Pruitt**, b. 18 Apr 1806, d. 18 Sep 1874.<sup>318</sup> He married 1<sup>st</sup> Malaha Greene on 5 Oct 1826 in Vanderburgh County; 2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Holcomb on 10 Aug 1837, Vanderburgh County; 3<sup>rd</sup> Malinda Smith Knowles on 29 May 1853, Gibson County; and 4<sup>th</sup> Sally Boucher Spilman (widow of Lewis Williams' son Simon) on 24 Feb 1863, De Witt County, Illinois.<sup>319</sup>
2. **William Pruitt**, b. 1 Dec 1807, d. 10 May 1870.<sup>320</sup> He married Elizabeth Spain on 14 Mar 1830 in Gibson County.
3. **Mary "Polly" Pruitt**, b. 18 May 1812, d. 12 Dec 1872.<sup>321</sup> She married Isaiah Wilkinson on 20 Jun 1837 in Vanderburgh County.
4. **Simon Pruitt**, b. 6 Mar 1813, d. 1 Jan 1892.<sup>322</sup> He married 1<sup>st</sup> Lucy Ann Broyles on 15 Jun 1837 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Ellen Gray on 9 Nov 1851. Both marriages took place in Posey County, Indiana.
5. **Martha "Patsy" Pruitt**, b. 4 Dec 1815, d. 18 May 1850.<sup>323</sup> She married Prettyman Marvel Montgomery on 1 Dec 1838 in Vanderburgh County.
6. **Phoebe Elizabeth Pruitt**, b. 20 Aug 1820, d. 8 Oct 1881.<sup>324</sup> She married Samuel Montgomery on 12 Dec 1844 in Vanderburgh County, Indiana. They moved to Oran Township, Logan County, Illinois.
7. **Juliette Pruitt**, b. 14 Feb 1822, d. 2 Feb 1892.<sup>325</sup> She married Absalom Redman 29 Oct 1839 in Vanderburgh County.
8. **Emelina Pruitt**, b. about 1824 (1850 Census), d. 8 Aug 1885.<sup>326</sup> She married William Wasson on 29 Oct 1839 in Vanderburgh County.
9. **Elvina Pruitt**, b. 1824 d. after 1870 (1870 Census). She married Nelson Martin, grandson of Elder James Martin, in Vanderburgh County on 11 Sep 1848.

Comparing the previously noted nine children against pre-1850 Census records we find their existence is corroborated, and that there is no evidence of additional, unidentified children.

In the Census records of 1840 for Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana we find the following household of Phebe Pruitt:

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<sup>318</sup> Find A Grave memorial # 95534349 (headstone photo), Calverts Chapel Cemetery, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

<sup>319</sup> This last marriage is recorded in the Illinois Secretary of States' *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900*, where "Prewit, John (of Vandeburg IND)" married Mrs. Sarah B. Williams.

<sup>320</sup> Find A Grave memorial # 52545187 (headstone photo), Calverts Chapel Cemetery, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

<sup>321</sup> Find A Grave memorial # 35653245 (headstone photo), Liberty Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>322</sup> Find A Grave memorial # 52513898 (headstone photo), Calverts Chapel Cemetery, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.

<sup>323</sup> Find A Grave memorial # 79629730 (headstone photo), Williams Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>324</sup> Find A Grave memorial # 18560842 (headstone photo), Bluegrass Cemetery, Logan County, Illinois.

<sup>325</sup> Find A Grave memorial # 63738784 (headstone photo), Mt Moriah Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>326</sup> Find A Grave memorial # 89987412 (no headstone photo), Number Eight Cemetery, Greenwood County, Kansas.

- Males: one 15-19 (could be a hired hand, possibly Elvina's future husband), one 20-29 (Simon).
- Females: one 15-19 (Elvina), one 20-29 (Phoebe), one 50-59 (Phebe).

The 1830 Vanderburgh County Census lists the following members in the household of Moses Pruitt:

- Males: one 15-19 (Simon), one 40-49 (Moses).
- Females: two under 5 (Emelina, Elvina), two 5-9 (Phoebe, Juliet), two 15-19 (Polly, Martha), one 40-49 (Phebe).

In Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, the following household of Moses Pruitt is shown in 1820:

- Males: one under 10 (Simon), two 10-15 (William, John), one 26-44 (Moses).
- Females: three under 10 (Phoebe, Mary, Martha), one 26-44 (Phebe).

There are records in the 1810 Census for Warren County, Kentucky for "Mosis Pruett," with a family of four, and "Mosie Pruitt," with a family of five. The latter has children that were born prior to 1805 (when Moses married Phebe Williams), while the former contains two sons under age 10 (John & William), and thus is a likely match to the couple in question. The parents are aged 16-25.

**Table 6.01 - Census Summary for the Household of Moses Pruitt<sup>327</sup>**

ID	Sex	1810	1820	1830	1840	Child
MP1	M	1805-10	1805-10			John, b. 1806
MP2	M	1805-10	1805-10			William, b. 1807
MP3	F		1810-20	1810-15		Mary, b. 1812
MP4	M		1810-20	1810-15		Simon, b. 1813
MP5	F		1810-20	1810-15		Martha, b. 1815
MP6	F		1810-20	1820-25	1810-20	Phoebe, b. 1820
MP7	F			1820-25		Juliette, b. 1822
MP8	F			1825-30		Emelina, b. 1824
MP9	F			1825-30	1825-30	Elvina, b. 1824
MP10	M				1820-25	Probably unrelated.
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2 minors</b>	<b>6 minors</b>	<b>7 minors</b>	<b>3 minors</b>	<b>9 proven minors out of 10</b>

Pre-1850 Census records appear to account for all of the adult children of Moses and Phebe.

<sup>327</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

## BENNET WILLIAMS & POLLY MARTIN

Bennet Williams and Polly Martin were buried at Williams Cemetery on the Charles Pfister farm on Highway 68 between Poseyville and Cynthiana (located about a mile southwest of the Simon Williams Family Cemetery).<sup>328</sup> Per their tombstone inscriptions, he was born 2 Mar 1783 and died 24 Jul 1837, and Polly was born 4 Mar 1788 and died 7 Nov 1847.

As stated earlier, in 1805 Bennet Williams posted the bond for the Warren County, Kentucky marriage of Sally (Williams) and James Martin, Junior.

An undated Warren County, Kentucky marriage bond by Bennet Williams and James Martin (where it appears the year 1806 has been added in pencil), provides proof of Bennet's marriage to "Mary Martin."<sup>329</sup> The signature of James Martin bears a resemblance to some of the varied signatures of Elder James Martin, Senior in several marriage returns from Kentucky and Indiana. Unfortunately, there are no original signatures of James Martin, Junior that could better help determine which of these two men had posted bond for this marriage. Analysis in Chapter 4 concluded that Elder James Martin, Senior had performed their marriage.

While it is unclear whether this was Elder James Martin, Senior or his son James Martin, Junior that posted the bond, either way it implies that she was the daughter of Elder James Martin, Senior, as this was either her brother or her father. The prior chapter detailed additional circumstantial evidence that supports this conclusion.

In the 1807 tax records for Warren County, Kentucky, Bennet is found listed just below Simon Williams and George Williams, living on land that Simon was found living on in later tax lists (and which Simon later owned).<sup>330</sup>



*Tombstone of Bennet Williams.  
Photo by Sheila Wiseman.*



*Tombstone of Polly (Martin) Williams.  
Photo by Sheila Wiseman.*

<sup>328</sup> *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carrol O. Cox (1979), page 56.

<sup>329</sup> Western Kentucky University's Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records*, MSS 230, Box 3, Folder 2, Item 30.

<sup>330</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1807, List 2*, page 26, FHL microfilm #8255.

Bennet's name is found among the list of voters recorded at an election held 22 May 1809 at the house of Jacob Warrick in the part of Knox County, Indiana Territory which would later become Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana.<sup>331</sup> The names of James Martin, Junior and [Elder] James Martin, Senior are found on the same list.

Bennet and his brother, George, jointly entered land in Gibson County, Indiana Territory (present-day Posey County, Indiana) on 20 Jul 1814 (NE ¼ of Section of 15, T4S, R12W) and 28 Dec 1814 (NW ¼ of the same section). The latter property abutted the western edge of Simon Williams' land patent, and was assigned to Benjamin Holcomb and Lewis Duncan on 3 Nov 1818.

Robert Montgomery 1834	George Harmon 1837	James Nesbit 1833	Avery Allen 1832	Elisha Kimball 17 Dec 1818	James Williams 1831	Lewis Williams 1831	Joel Yager 1831
William Wilcox 1839							
Thomas McClure 10 Feb 1815		John Smith 18 Sep 1815		David Benson 15 Oct 1813		Thomas Duncan 23 Sep 1815	
George & Bennett Williams 28 Dec 1814		George & Bennett Williams 20 Jul 1814		Simon Williams 28 Mar 1814		Jonathan Jacques 8 Oct 1816	
William Downey 24 Dec 1814				George Eaton 7 Mar 1817	Herndon Meadows 1831	William Gambrel 1831	

*Map showing properties originally patented jointly by Bennet Williams and George Williams.*

<sup>331</sup> Per Ancestry.com's *U.S. Census Reconstructed Records, 1660-1820* (2011).

On 24 Feb 1831, John and Elizabeth Downey donated part of the NW ¼ of Section 22, T4S, R12W amounting to about 1.4 acres to the middle school district. Subtrustees of the district were Bennet Williams, James Downey and James Nesbit.<sup>332</sup>

On 10 Aug 1832, Bennet Williams purchased for \$200 from William and Martha (Allen) Williams 51 acres of the S ½ NE ¼ of Section 15, T4S, R12W.<sup>333</sup> Then, on 1 Sep 1832, Bennet and Mary (Martin) Williams sold the northern half of that tract of land (approximately 25 ½ acres) to George Williams for \$100.<sup>334</sup>

In 1834, Bennet was witness to the two deeds that sold the remainder of Simon William's 160 acre patent, with one third going to Enoch Williams and one third going to John Williams.<sup>335</sup>

On 14 Jan 1837, Bennet and Polly Williams sold to George Williams for \$100 an approximately 90 acre portion of the NW ¼ of Section 15, T4S, R12W, with the deed being witnessed by James Williams (probably Bennet's son) and Joseph Davis. However, the deed was signed by George and Audra Williams, not by Bennet and Polly.<sup>336</sup> On the same date, George and Audra Williams sold to Bennet Williams for \$100 a similar portion of land in the same quarter section. The witnesses were the same, and the deed was signed by Bennet and Polly, not by George and Audra.<sup>337</sup> The fact that the two deeds had been signed by the wrong parties would need to be corrected nearly a decade later, as you will soon learn.

Bennet died some time after he had devised the following will in the summer of 1837.<sup>338</sup> While the available copy was barely legible, it appears to have named all of his children who were living at the time of his death.

*[this transcription was taken from a very faint, poor quality photocopy of the original]*

*"In the name of the Lord, Amen, I **Bennett Williams** \_\_\_\_\_ understanding the uncertainty of this natural life and being of sound mind and memory do \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ this my last will and testament.*

*Item – It is my will that Executors hereinafter named shall pay my just debts and \_\_\_\_\_ accounts shall become due.*

*Item – I give and bequeath to my wife **Polly Williams** all my real and personal estate during her natural life & widowhood \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Item – It is my will that my wife shall keep together and educate and raise all my minor children, and as soon as any of them \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ it is my will that any Executors hereinafter appointed shall allow and give them the same amount of*

<sup>332</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book E, page 361.

<sup>333</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book F, pages 47 and 48.

<sup>334</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book F, page 154.

<sup>335</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G, pages 82 and 86, respectively.

<sup>336</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book H, page 365.

<sup>337</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book H, page 367.

<sup>338</sup> Posey County, Indiana Wills, Book A, pages 131 and 132.



*property that has been received by any other sons and daughters that have already married.*

*Item – It is my will further that at the decease of my wife, or so soon as she shall cease to be my widow, that all my real estate shall be divided between my three youngest sons, **Elias, Silas & Baily**. Equally to be disposed of by them as they may severally think proper, so soon as they may (lawfully?) come in to the possession of the same agreeably to the provisions of this my last will and testament, provided they shall have attained the age of twenty one years.*

*“Item – It is further my will that at the decease of my said wife all the personal property of which she may now have shall be [illegible to end of page – probably ‘sold and proceeds’] equally divided between my six daughters to wit, **Amelia, Fanny, Sarah, Nancy, Elizabeth & Matilda**.*

*“Item – I further direct that the said **Elias, Silas & Baily** Williams my said three youngest sons shall pay to **John, Simon and James Williams** their three Elder brothers the sum of fifty dollars each, that is to say each of their Elder brothers shall receive of the three younger collectively fifty dollars, and it is further and is \_\_\_\_ my will that in \_\_\_\_ one or more of my said three youngest sons should die before he or they come into the \_\_\_\_ of the estate hereby bequeathed to them that the survivors or survivor shall inherit his the share of his or their deceased brother or brothers, and shall make up the said sum of one hundred and fifty dollars hereby bequeathed to my said three eldest sons, that is to say fifty dollars to each.*

*“Lastly – I hereby appoint my wife, **Polly Williams**, Executrix and my son **John Williams** Executor of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all former and other wills by me made.*

*“In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty (first?) day of July A. D. 1837.*

*[signed] “**Bennett Williams** {seal}*

*“Signed sealed published and declared by the said **Bennett Williams** to be his last will and testament in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence have signed our names as witnesses hereunto.*

*“**G. W. Lindsay***

*“**Patrick Calvert**”*

Since Silas and Bailey were not yet of age when Bennet died, the court appointed Joseph Cater, husband of Jemima Williams, as their guardian on 17 Feb 1848. Simon Williams (likely Bennet’s son) posted security.

It is interesting to note that on 12 Mar 1846, Bennet’s widow, Polly, and her two youngest sons, Silas and Bailey, brought suit against Bennet’s brother and sister-in-law, George and Audra (Journey) Williams. As part of that process, the court ordered George to effect a deed to the complainants conveying a piece of property described thus: part of the NW ¼, Section 15, T4S, R12W, beginning at the southeast corner of said quarter section, thence north 80 poles, west 1 pole, north 10 poles, west 159 poles, south 90 poles, thence east to the point of beginning. As noted earlier, this same property had already been conveyed to Bennet and Polly by George and Audra on 14 Jan 1837, but

had not been signed by George. However, named in the resultant deed are the children of Bennet Williams and their spouses who were alive at the time: John Williams, Amelia Murphy, Aaron Murphy, Simon Williams, Fanny Ewing, Henry Ewing, James Williams, Sarah Brumfield, James Brumfield, Nancy Drasdal [sic: Drysdale], Calvin Drasdal, Elizabeth Yager, Absolum Yager and Matilda Williams.<sup>339</sup>

On 17 Feb 1848, Joseph Cater was appointed as the guardian of Silas and Bailey Williams, the two youngest sons of Bennet Williams.<sup>340</sup>

On page 734 of Stormont's *History of Gibson County, Indiana* (1914) are found the following details of one of Bennet's daughters:<sup>341</sup>

*"In November, 1842, Absalom Yeager married Elizabeth Williams, who was born in Posey County – in 18??, daughter of Bennett and Polly Williams, and to this union were born seven children..."*

And on page 914 of the same book is this reference to one of Bennet's grandsons:

*"Dr. John M. Williams, the son of Simon and Lavina (Sharer) Williams, was born January 25, 1857, in Vanderburgh county, near the city of Evansville, Indiana. His father was a native of Posey County, Indiana, and was a son of Bennett Williams, while his mother's birth occurred in Gibson County. Mr. and Mrs. Simon Williams began their married life in Vanderburgh county, removed to Gibson county, Fort Branch, in 1870, where Mr. Williams lived a retired life until his death, three years later. His wife survived him several years, living with her son in Owensville, where her death occurred in 1896."*

On page 26 of *Looking Backward Ten Generations: with connected families* by Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey (after 1934) is the following information on the family of Bennet and Polly:

***"Martin-Williams Line***

***"Polly Martin, born Mar. 4 1783, died Nov. 4, 1837, married Dec. 27, 1806 to Bennet Williams, born March 22, 1782. Died 1837.***

***"Issue –***

***"John Marshall, born Feb. 15, 1808, died Feb. 17, 1846, married Elizabeth Allen.***

***"Amelia Ellen, born Feb. 10, 1810, died Aug. 30, 1902.***

***"Simon, born Jan. 20, 1812.***

***"Obedience [twin], born Feb. 15, 1814, died Oct. 1859, married ..... Lowe.***

***"Fanny [twin], born Feb. 15, 1814, married Henry Ewing.***

***"James Martin, born April 22, 1816, married Nancy Smith.***

<sup>339</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book N, page 334.

<sup>340</sup> Posey County, Indiana Probate Orders, Book F, page 502.

<sup>341</sup> A similar account is also found on page 32 in Elia W. Peattie's *Pictorial Story of America, Part III: Gibson County* (1895).

*“Sally, born July 28, 1818.*

*“Nancy Ann, born Feb. 15, 1821 married Drysdale Calvin [sic].*

*“Elizabeth, born May 30, 1823, married Solomon Miller.*

*“Matthew Elias, born Oct. 13, 1825, died 1838.*

*“Letitia Matilda, born Feb. 23, 1828, died Feb. 1912, married James Emberson.*

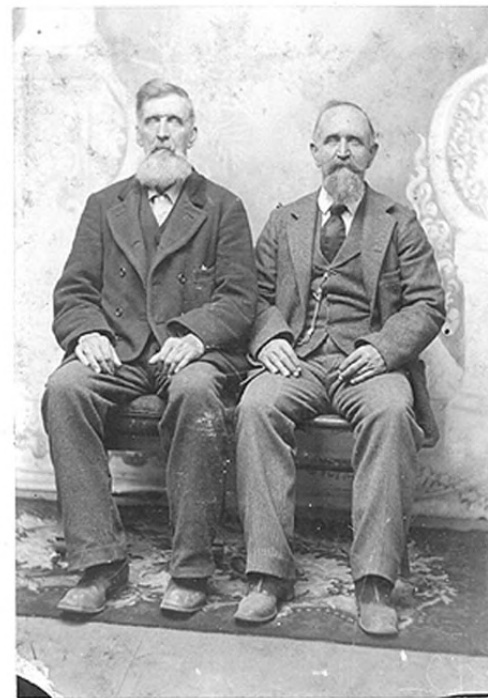
*“Silas, born Oct. 4, 1830.*

*“Bailey, born Nov. 9, 1833, married Keziah Fletchall.*

The author of the above information was born in 1888 and was a 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandchild of Bennet Williams. Her grandmother, Zereldia (Williams) Wade, who was born in 1845 and lived until 1932, was likely her source of information on the Williams family (though both of Zereldia’s grandparents were dead shortly after her birth). As to the earlier date of death that the author notes for Polly, this is yet another error by Mrs. Ramsey, as her headstone records that she died on 4 Nov 1847.<sup>342</sup> The age and gender attributes of the others in her 1840 Census record match those of her children, as will be shown later.

Mrs. Ramsey’s errors don’t stop there. Above she asserts that Letitia Matilda Williams married James ‘Emberson.’ There is a record of the 20 Nov 1845 Posey County marriage license (#1761) for Matilda Williams and James ‘Emberson,’ but there is also a 13 Oct 1848 deed that was executed between James and Matilda Emmerson Matilda daughter of John Williams (husband of Elizabeth Rook) – to John Williams: it wasn’t Bennet’s daughter that had married James Emmerson, it was his younger brother’s daughter who was James’ bride.<sup>343</sup> Bennet’s Matilda married John Neely Mangrum in Gibson County on 4 Jan 1849 (marriage license #2278), and she had used her maiden name on the marriage license.

Of the above list, the only individual that is not corroborated by public records *and Bennet’s will* is Obedience, who is purported to be the twin of Fanny. In the analysis of pre-1850 Census records of Bennet’s household in the following subsection, there are not



**Jennings,**

Eldorado, Ill.

Silas Deane & Bailey Williams.  
From Ancestry.com member WWC1902.

<sup>342</sup> Find A Grave, memorial # 107927229 (headstone photo), Old Williams Cemetery.

<sup>343</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book P, page 517.

two females of the age ranges Fanny & Obedience. Of the two girls, only the facts attributed to Fanny can be corroborated and only Fanny was named in her father's will. If Obedience was a child of Bennet and Polly, she died prior to the 1830 Census, as there is no corresponding 1830 Census match for her and she was not mentioned in her father's will. As such, she would have been too young to have married, which explains why no marriage record was found and why there is no given name for Mr. Lowe. As noted in the prior chapter, it is possible that her existence was fabricated to bolster the now disproven notion that that Polly (Martin) Williams' mother was Obedience Bugg.

## Proven Children

Thus, based upon the preceding analysis, the proven members of the family of Bennet Williams and Polly Martin are:

1. **John Williams**. At least one tree on Ancestry.com has him as being b. 15 Feb 1808, d. 17 Feb 1846, which is consistent with known Census records. He married Elizabeth Allen on 16 Sep 1828 in Posey County. William Lowe provided testimony that he heard both of their parents give their permission to obtain a marriage license.<sup>344</sup>
2. **Amelia “Milly” Williams**, who is thought to have been b. 24 Feb 1810, d. 20 Aug 1902.<sup>345</sup> On 31 Jul 1828 she married Aaron Murphy in Posey County.
3. **Simon Williams**, b. 20 Jan 1812, d. 25 Sep 1875.<sup>346</sup> He married Lavina Sharer on 4 Apr 1833 in Gibson County.<sup>347</sup>
4. **Fanny Williams**, who is thought to have been b. 15 Feb 1814, d. 1 Jun 1846 (unsourced). On 29 Jul 1832 she married Henry Ewing (who also died prior to the 1850 Census) in Posey County, Indiana (License # 195).
5. **James Williams**, who is thought to have been b. 22 Apr 1816, d. 12 Oct 1847 (unsourced). He married first, Nancy Smith in Posey County on 27 Jun 1835 (no known children), and second, on 24 Oct 1842 he married Julia Ann McDonald in Vanderburgh County.
6. **Sally Williams**, b. 28 Jul 1818, d. 14 Feb 1907.<sup>348</sup> She married James Brumfield on 4 Jan 1838 in Posey County.
7. **Nancy Williams**, b. 15 Feb 1821, d. 7 Jan 1860.<sup>349</sup> She married Calvin Drysdale on 1 Sep 1840 in Posey County.<sup>350</sup>
8. **Elizabeth Williams**, b. 30 May 1823, d. 12 Nov 1915.<sup>351</sup> She *may have* first married Solomon Miller on 12 Sep 1839 (at age 16) in Gibson County (if so, no children survived to adulthood). She married Absalom Yeager on 15 Nov 1842 in Posey County.<sup>352</sup>
9. **Elias Williams**, who is thought to have been b. 3 Oct 1825, d. 9 Nov 1838 (unsourced). He was alive in 1837 when Bennet’s will was written, yet several trees on Ancestry.com state that he died in 1833.
10. **Matilda Williams**, b. 23 Feb 1828, d. 1 Feb 1912.<sup>353</sup> She married John Neely Mangrum on 2 Jan 1849 in Gibson County. *She did not marry James Emberson (see later section for John Williams and Elizabeth Rook).*

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<sup>344</sup> Page 232, *Posey County, Indiana: A Documented History, 1815-1900, Volume II* by Carroll O. and Gloria M. Cox (1987).

<sup>345</sup> Find A Grave memorial #38042086 (headstone photo), Bethlehem Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>346</sup> Find A Grave memorial #84457955 (headstone photo), Walnut Hill Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>347</sup> Further details of this family are found in the biography of John M. Williams on page 82 of Elia W. Peattie’s *Pictorial History of America, Part III: Gibson County* (1895).

<sup>348</sup> Find A Grave memorial #57987132 (headstone photo), Mt Moriah Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>349</sup> Find A Grave memorial #24991218 (headstone photo), Providence Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>350</sup> Further details of this family are found in the biography of A. J. Drysdale on page 122 of Elia W. Peattie’s *Pictorial History of America, Part III: Gibson County* (1895).

<sup>351</sup> Find A Grave memorial #57802421 (headstone photo), Mt Moriah Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>352</sup> Further details of this family are found in the biography of Henry C. Yeager’s on page 31 of Elia W. Peattie’s *Pictorial History of America, Part III: Gibson County* (1895).

<sup>353</sup> Find A Grave memorial #57939020 (headstone photo), Mt Moriah Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.



11. **Silas Williams**, b. 1830, d. 1901.<sup>354</sup> He married Sarah Jane Marks on 3 Mar 1853 in Gibson County.
12. **Bailey Williams**, b. 9 Nov 1833, d. 10 Apr 1909.<sup>355</sup> He married Margaret Blythe on 14 Dec 1854 in Gibson County.

A quick analysis confirms that there is a place for these children in pre-1850 Census records, and tells us that all of his children have been identified:

The 1820 Census record for Bennet's family is missing.

Children John and Amelia had married before the 1830 Census. An 1830 Census record for Bennet Williams living in Smith Township would seem to be a match to the individuals described earlier. Silas and Bailey were born after the 1830 Census. In 1828 Amelia had married Aaron Murphy and, also in 1828, John had married Elizabeth Allen. Bennet's household in 1830 consisted of:

- Males: one under age 5 (Elias), one 10-14 (James), one 15-19 (Simon), and one 40-49 (Bennet).
- Females: one under age 5 (Matilda), two 5-9 (Nancy, Elizabeth), one 10-14 (Sarah), one 15-19 (Fanny), and one 40-49 (Polly).

Prior to the 1840 Census there were marriages for Simon, Fanny and Sally; and Elias had died. Polly survived to see one more Census than Bennet, and in 1840 she is living in Smith Township with the following household:

- Males: one aged 5-10 (Bailey), one 10-15 (Silas), one 20-30 (James).
- Females: one aged 10-15 (Matilda), one 15-20 (Elizabeth), one 50-60 (Polly).

**Table 6.02 - Census Summary for the Household of Bennet Williams<sup>356</sup>**

ID	Sex	1820	1830	1840	Child
BW1	M				John, b. 1808
BW2	F				Amelia, b. 1810
BW3	M		1810-1815		Simon, b. 1812
BW4	F		1810-1815		Fanny, b. 1814
BW5	M		1815-1820		James, b. 1816
BW6	F		1815-1820		Sally, b. 1818
BW7	F		1820-1825		Nancy, b. 1821
BW8	F		1820-1825	1820-1825	Elizabeth, b. 1823
BW9	M		1825-1830		Elias, b. 1825
BW10	F		1825-1830	1825-1830	?
BW11	M			1825-1830	Silas, b. 1830
BW12	M			1830-1835	Bailey, b. 1833
<b>Totals</b>			<b>8 minors</b>	<b>4 minors</b>	<b>12 proven minors out of 12</b>

<sup>354</sup> Find A Grave memorial #57937773 (headstone photo), Mt Moriah Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>355</sup> Find A Grave memorial #57939698 (headstone photo), Mt Moriah Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>356</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

## ELEANOR WILLIAMS & LEWIS HARMON

Eleanor Williams and Lewis Harmon were married on or after 10 Jul 1805 in Warren County, Kentucky, which was when Lewis Harmon and Micajah Harmon posted bond for the marriage. On the reverse of the bond is Micajah Harmon's statement that Nelly Williams was above the age of 21.<sup>357</sup> Analysis in Chapter 4 has concluded that the ceremony was performed by Elder James Martin, Senior.

In 1804 Lewis Harmon's name is found on the tax list for Warren County, Kentucky. No taxable property was recorded, and the tax district and name of the person who had entered the land that he was living upon was left blank. The date that taxes were paid was also left blank.<sup>358</sup> Also in 1804, he is listed as an Ensign in the 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment Militia from Warren County.<sup>359</sup>

On 21 Aug 1805 Lewis was listed next to Micajah Harmon, who paid taxes on 150 acres of third rate land entered by A. Armstrong<sup>360</sup> located on the waters of Drakes Creek, and also paid taxes for one male over age 21, one male aged 16 to 21 and three horses. Lewis paid taxes for himself and his horse.<sup>361</sup> Also paying taxes on the same day were David Benson, Moses Pruitt and Simon Williams.

On 20 May 1806 Lewis Harmon paid the poll tax, and was taxed for one black over the age of 16 and two horses. Listed next was Micajah Harmon, who was taxed for 150 acres of third rate land on the waters of Trammel Creek entered by and surveyed for A. Armstrong.<sup>362</sup> Paying taxes on that same day were two new neighbors – James Martin, Junior, James Martin, Senior – and his old neighbor, Simon Williams.

In 1807 Lewis Harmon and George Williams were witnesses to the Warren County, Kentucky marriage of William Harmon and Eleanor Williams.

In 1807 Lewis was living next to Micajah Harmon, who was living on the same property as in 1805. Micajah paid taxes on 140 acres of third rate land, one white male over 21 years old, 1 white male between 16 and 21 years of age, one black person and three horses. Lewis paid taxes for one male over 21 years of age and two horses.<sup>363</sup>

On 3 Jun 1809, Lewis Harmon, Micajah Harmon and George Harmon are all found listed side-by-side. Lewis and George were both taxed as males over 21 years of age. Lewis paid tax for his horse and George was taxed for three horses. Micajah was taxed for two males over age 21, one black over age 16 (and a total of 1 black person), plus five horses.

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<sup>357</sup> Western Kentucky University's Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records, MSS 230, Box 2, Folder 9, Items 27-1 and 27-2.*

<sup>358</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1804, List 2*, page 14, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>359</sup> *The "Corn Stalk" Militia of Kentucky, 1792-1811* by G. Glenn Clift (1957), page 148.

<sup>360</sup> This was Aaron Armstrong. In 1830 he and his wife, Mary, were living in Madison County, Illinois.

<sup>361</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1805, List 1*, page 8, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>362</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1806, List 2*, page 10, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>363</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1807, List 2*, page 10, FHL microfilm #8255.

On 3 Feb 1812 Lewis Harmon was Lieutenant in the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Indiana Militia under Captain James Smith.<sup>364</sup> Later that year, on 1 Jun 1812 Lewis was appointed Captain, along with Samuel Anderson Lieutenant, Thomas Montgomery Ensign, James Stewart Lieutenant and Thomas Alcorn Ensign, all in the fourth regiment.<sup>365</sup>

On 13 Jul 1819, Lewis Williams made an entry for 80 acres of land from the General Land Office described as the W ½ SE ¼ of Section 5, T3S, R12W.<sup>366</sup>

Lewis served on the first Gibson County Board of Justices of the Peace, which held its first meeting on 6 Sep 1824.<sup>367</sup> He was no longer on the board when it was dissolved in Jul 1831, with the last mention of his attendance found in the minutes of the September Term, 1829. Based upon the more than two dozen marriages performed by Lewis Harmon, Esquire, it would appear that he served as a Justice of the Peace intermittently from late 1825 to late 1826, from early 1828 to mid-1828, and from late 1830 through mid-1832. And there are many deeds that exist which were signed by him that make it clear that this was indeed the case. He performed many marriages for his neighbors, including the Garretts, Crosses, Jordans, Waters, Smiths, Sharps and others, as well as the marriage of his youngest son Syrack to Polly Waters.

However, it is difficult to determine the identities of the children of Lewis Harmon because of the lack of a will or probate file. The task is further complicated by a nearby household found in the 1820 Census for Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana. Living nine households away was the widow Nancy Harmon, who quite probably was the widow of a brother or close cousin of Lewis. She was living only two doors down from James Martin, Junior, and had several children whose age and gender characteristics matched similar children of Lewis' family.

On 4 Jul 1829, Lewis Harmon relinquished back to the government his interest in the 80 acres that he acquired in 1819, which means that for some reason he was unable to make a scheduled payment on the property. He re-entered the same property on 20 Jul 1831.<sup>368</sup> On 31 Dec 1831, he received the patent to this property.<sup>369</sup>

Eleanor (Williams) Harmon died prior to the 1850 Census, so little is known of her. But Lewis Harmon survived to be enumerated in the 1850 Census for Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana, where he was 78 years old and living with his daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Richard Simpson. Richard Simpson had made a land entry for 80 acres on 26 May 1823, which abutted property that Lewis Harmon, Senior had entered on 13 Jul 1819 (see the map below).

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<sup>364</sup> *Executive Journal of Indiana Territory, 1800-1816*, edited by William Wesley Woollen, Daniel Wait Howe and Jacob Piatt Dunn (1900), page 179-180. (1900)

<sup>365</sup> *Ibid*, page 184.

<sup>366</sup> Page 87, *Indiana Land Entries, Volume 2, Vincennes District, Part 1, 1807-1877* by Margaret R. Waters (1949).

<sup>367</sup> *History of Gibson County, Indiana* (1914) by Gil R. Stormont, page 76 and *History of Gibson County, Indiana* (1884) by James T. Tartt, pages 82 and 83.

<sup>368</sup> Page 90, *Indiana Land Entries, Volume 2, Vincennes District, Part 1, 1807-1877* by Margaret R. Waters (1949).

<sup>369</sup> *General Land Office Records*, accession # IN0060\_.156.

Thomas Johnson	Thomas Gwin	Robert Anderson		Samuel Anderson & James Carlton		Thomas Waters	
William Steel	Richard Simpson	Lewis Harmon	Lewis Jordan	James Martin		Robert Anderson	
	Featherton Cross	James Garrett	Eli Garrett	John Simpson, Sr	Bailey W. Gwin	Shubal Garrett	Shubal Garret
Henry Garrett		John Robinson	Syrack Harmon		Greenberry Baldwin	Shubal Garrett	Shubal Garret
Henry Garrett		Henry Garrett	Bennett Harmon	Lewis Harmon	Greenberry Baldwin	James Jordan	William McCormick
			Tabitha Baldwin	Hiram Jordan Frazer	John James Frazer	James Jordan	

*Plot plan of original land entries for part of Montgomery Township highlighting the properties of Lewis Harmon and his sons.*

On 16 Aug 1852 Lewis Harmon executed separate deeds to James W. Harmon and Syrack Harmon, selling them each 40 acres for \$5 each.<sup>370</sup> These deeds split down the middle his 80 acres in the W ½ SE ¼ of Section 5, T3S, R12W, with James getting the west half and Syrack getting the east half.<sup>371</sup>

Analysis of 1820 to 1840 Census records shows that Lewis had three daughters and four sons. So at this point we are seeking the identities of the remaining two daughters and two sons. Of Lewis' three daughters, two were born between 1805 and 1810, one of whom we have already identified (Elizabeth).

<sup>370</sup> Lewis' wife was dead by this time, so only he signed the deed. Any deeds after his wife's death that are listed that were made by 'Lewis Harmon and wife' were for his son.

<sup>371</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Deeds, Book O*, pages 563 and 565, respectively.

In looking for a Harmon female who married in the surrounding counties between Aug 1820 and Aug 1830<sup>372</sup> we find only one marriage – that of Polly Harmon and Alexander Johnson, on 2 Feb 1826. The 1850 Census shows that she was b. 1806 in Kentucky, which fits with what we know of Lewis' family.

But since we don't have direct evidence of their relationship it is necessary to preclude the possibility that she is a member of one of the other two known Harmon households in the area. None of William and Eleanor (Williams) Harmon's daughters were born before 1820, so she could not have been their daughter. And none of the daughters of Widow Nancy Harmon were born before 1810, so she could not have been her daughter. Thus Lewis Harmon, Senior is the only possible father of Polly (Harmon) Johnson (no outside Harmon families had arrived in the area until the late 1830s, and they settled several miles from where Lewis had lived).

In the 1840 Census for Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana, we find Lewis Harmon, Junior listed seven lines from Lewis Harmon, Senior. Individuals in Census records that are distinguished as Junior and Senior are not necessarily related, as they may simply be describing older and younger persons of the same name. But when an individual goes to the courthouse to record a deed and gives his name as Lewis Harmon, Junior he is directly implying that he has a father named Lewis Harmon. There are more than half a dozen such deeds recorded in Gibson County during the time span when both men were living.<sup>373</sup> And in Gibson County and the surrounding counties during the Census enumerations of 1820 and 1830 there was only one Lewis Harmon, our subject.

Lewis Harmon, Junior married Nancy Simpson in Gibson County on 27 Sep 1838. The 1850 Census states that he was b. 1805, which would be a match to Lewis' eldest son as described in Census records for 1820 and 1830 (Lewis Harmon, Junior did not marry until after 1830).

In light of the preceding analysis, the earlier map of Harmon land entries for an area immediately west of Owensville offers a clue to the name of Lewis' remaining son. Nestled between the properties of Syrack Harmon and Lewis Harmon, Junior is that of Bennett Harmon. The three men made their land entries within two months of each other. Bennett is found in the 1840 Census for Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana and is said to have been born between 1810 and 1820. No marriage record was found for him. His known age range matches the age range of Lewis' last remaining unidentified son. He is not found in records of the 1850 and 1860 Census, but appears to have enlisted in Company B, 60<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment.<sup>374,375</sup> He died of a gunshot wound while being cared for aboard the Hospital Steamer *D. A. January* on 13 Jan 1863.

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<sup>372</sup> By law, the Census enumerations of the early 1800s were required to take place in August.

<sup>373</sup> A partial list would include the following book and page numbers: D626, D596, D597, G464, J223, K654, K483 and N261, which spans from 1832 to 1851.

<sup>374</sup> The 60<sup>th</sup> Regiment was formed in Evansville, Indiana. There are only two Bennett Harmon's known to have lived in the area in this time period. The other was born in 1849 and was too young to have enlisted.

<sup>375</sup> Ancestry.com's *U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865* (2009).



## Proven Children

Thus the proven children of Eleanor and Lewis Harmon are:

1. **Lewis Harmon, Junior**, b. about 1805, d. 13 Nov 1883.<sup>376</sup> He married Nancy “Pat” Simpson on 27 Sep 1838 in Gibson County.
2. **Elizabeth Harmon**, b. about 1806 (1850 Census), d. 1871 (unsourced). She married Richard Simpson on 12 Jun 1823 in Gibson County.
3. **Polly Harmon**, b. Feb 1808, d. 14 Nov 1865.<sup>377</sup> She married Alexander Johnson on 2 Feb 1826 in Gibson County. She died at age 57 years, 9 months.
4. **Syrack Harmon**, b. about 1814 (1850 Census). He married Polly Waters on 9 Oct 1831 in Gibson County.
5. **Bennett Harmon**, b. 1810-1820 (1840 Census), d. 13 Jan 1863.<sup>378</sup>
6. **James W. Harmon**, b. about 1819 (1850 Census). He married first Martha Jane Wells on 8 Jun 1839 in Gibson County. She likely died around 1845, as on 28 Oct 1846 in Gibson County he married Elizabeth Ann Simpson, presumably the widow of Laxton Harmon.

A quick analysis confirms that there is a place for each of these children in pre-1850 Census records, and tells us the age and gender of his children who remain unidentified:

In the 1820 Census for Montgomery Township, Lewis’ household consisted of:

- Males: three under age 10 (James W., Syrack, Bennett), one 10-15 (Lewis Junior), one 45 plus (Lewis).
- Females: one under age 10 (?), two 10-15 (Elizabeth, Polly), one 26-44 (Eleanor).

In the 1830 Census for Gibson County he is head of the following household:

- Males: one aged 10-14 (James W.), two 15-19 (Syrack, Bennett), one 20-29 (Lewis Junior), one 50-59 (Lewis).
- Females: one aged 10-14 (?), 1 40-49 (Eleanor).

**Table 6.03: Census Summary for the Household of Lewis Harmon**<sup>379</sup>

ID	Sex	1820	1830	1840	Child
LH1	M	1805-1810	1800-1810		Lewis Junior, b. 1805
LH2	F	1805-1810			Elizabeth, b. 1806
LH3	F	1805-1810			Polly, b. 1808
LH4	M	1810-1820	1810-1815		Bennett, b. 1810-1820
LH5	M	1810-1820	1810-1815		Syrack, b. 1814
LH6	M	1810-1820	1815-1820		James W., b. 1819
LH7	F	1810-1820	1815-1820		?
<b>Totals</b>		<b>7 minors</b>	<b>5 minors</b>	<b>0 minors</b>	<b>6 proven minors out of 7</b>

<sup>376</sup> Ancestry.com’s *Indiana Deaths, 1882-1920* (2004).

<sup>377</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial # 25324164 (headstone photo), Maumee Cemetery.

<sup>378</sup> Ancestry.com’s *Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865* (2012).

<sup>379</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

His Gibson County household in 1840 consisted of:

- Males: one aged 60-69 (Lewis).
- Females: one aged 50-59 (Eleanor).

## Unproven Child

Having accounted for all of Lewis' sons and two daughters, we are left to determine the identity of one daughter.

### LH7

LH7 was born between 1815 and 1820 (if information provided in the 1830 Census is accurate). By searching all Harmon marriage records for the surrounding counties and determine their ages by tracing those couples through to the 1850 or later Census records, we find only two possibilities for this person's identity:

- Martha "Patsy" Harmon, who married Thomas Waters on 20 Dec 1834.
- Rebecca Harmon, who married John Almon on 1 Jan 1835.

The wedding ceremonies for both of these women was performed by J. Wilburn, Esquire, so it seems they lived very close to one another, especially when you consider that their marriages took place less than two weeks apart.

Let's take a look at the household of Thomas and Patsy (Harmon) Waters in the 1850 Census, where Nancy S. Waters, age 68 (b. about 1782) is living with them. On 17 Apr 1826 Nancy S. Harmon had married William W. Waters. This was the widow Nancy Harmon, who is found in the 1820 Census in a household with two daughters whose age range is a match for Patsy. The range of Nancy's year of birth (1776-1794) matches that of the 1850 Census (b. 1782). A look at the 1830 and 1840 Census for William Waters' household finds that Thomas Waters is a possible match to one of three sons of the same age range. Did Thomas marry his stepmother's daughter?

The answer would seem to be yes, that Martha was the daughter of the widow Nancy Harmon. But when you look more closely at the family of William W. Waters by his first wife, Esther Bidwell, things are not so certain. One of his daughters, Polly, was the wife of Syrack Harmon, a son of Lewis Harmon. And on 17 Dec 1838, William Waters and his wife sold to Lewis Harmon, Junior an undivided 1/8<sup>th</sup> interest in the E ½ SE ¼ of Section 32, T2S, R12W for \$60<sup>380</sup> (the land had originally been patented by Thomas Waters on 30 Nov 1825,<sup>381</sup> who had made the original land entry on 30 Mar 1820).<sup>382</sup> So this was likely Williams' father, who died around Jun 1832.<sup>383</sup>

So it seems it is not easy to cleanly separate these two families. There is as a good a chance that either of these women belongs in one family as there is that they belong in the other. There is insufficient evidence to conclude which woman was Lewis Harmon's youngest daughter.

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<sup>380</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Deeds, Book G*, page 464.

<sup>381</sup> *General Land Office Records*, CV-0083-299.

<sup>382</sup> Page 71, *Indiana Land Entries, Volume 2, Vincennes District, Part 1, 1807-1877* by Margaret R. Waters (1949).

<sup>383</sup> Tarrt's *History of Gibson County, Indiana* (1884), pages 57 and 197, states he died circa 1825. *Gibson County, Indiana Wills, Book D*, page 129, his will was written in 1830 and probated on 20 Jun 1830.

## GEORGE HARRISON WILLIAMS & AUDRA JOURNEY

On 5 Aug 1819 George Williams married the widow Audra (Journey) Martin at Posey County, Indiana. Audra had married Ralph Martin on 26 Jun 1817 in Harrison County, Kentucky, and it would seem that they soon moved to Posey County, Indiana. Ralph Martin and James Nisbet took out a marriage bond for the marriage two days prior to the ceremony:

Know all men by these presents that we Ralph Martin  
& James Nisbet are held & firmly bound unto  
the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the just and  
full sum of fifty pounds current money & for  
payment well & truly to be made & done to the  
said Commonwealth we bind ourselves every  
of our heirs Executors jointly and severally  
firmly by these presents sealed with our  
seals and dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 1817

The Condition of the above obligation is such  
that Whereas a marriage is shortly intended  
to be solemnized between the above bound  
Ralph Martin & Audra Journey now should  
there be no lawfull cause to obstruct the marriage  
then the above obligation to be void else it to  
remain in full force & virtue

Attest  
A Moore  
James Nisbet

James Nisbet was Audra's brother-in-law: the husband of her sister, Hannah. James' grave is located a little over a half mile west of the Simon Williams Family Cemetery. The graveyard also abuts the northern boundary of the patents of George and Bennet Williams.



The fate of Audra's first husband Ralph is given on page 25 of an untitled typescript found in the *Cox Collection* at the Willard Library in Evansville, Indiana:

*“John Davis, first husband of **Elan (Nellie) Journey**, and **Ralph Martin**, first husband of **Audra Journey**, were killed while attending a camp meeting at Mount Mariah [sic: Moriah] Camp Meeting Grounds in Gibson County, Ind. A severe storm [swept] across and the two men took refuge under a tree – the tree was struck by lightning and both men were killed.*

*“Family tradition has it that **James Downey** and [George] **Harrison Williams**<sup>384</sup> escorted the bereaved sisters to their homes from the camp grounds, the women riding horse-back behind their male escorts, as was the custom of that day.”*

Audra is buried at Liberty Cemetery, where her tombstone states that she was born on 14 Mar 1797 and died on 2 Feb 1887.<sup>385</sup> Ancestry.com's *U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules Index, 1850-1880* (1999) tells us that George died on 8 March 1850, which is confirmed by his headstone at the Simon William Family Cemetery (at right), which also tells us he was born on 15 May 1784.



On an 1807 tax list for Warren County, Kentucky, George is listed immediately following the entry for Simon Williams. He was not taxed for any land, but paid the poll tax and was taxed for one horse. The date that the taxes were collected was not recorded.<sup>386</sup>

On an 1809 tax list for Warren County, Simon and George are listed side-by-side, and both paid their taxes on 10 May. Only Simon was taxed for land, so that implies that George was living on Simon's property at that time.<sup>387</sup>

In 1811, once again George was not taxed for any Warren County land. Listed after him in order were: Lewis Williams, John Willbanks and Simon Williams. The dates that the taxes were collected was not recorded.<sup>388</sup>

In 1812, George and Simon are again listed side-by-side on the Warren County tax list. The page is heavily soiled and it is not possible to confidently discern any additional details.<sup>389</sup>

<sup>384</sup> They would later marry the widowed sisters.

<sup>385</sup> *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carroll O. Cox (1979), page 70.

<sup>386</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1807, List 2*, page 26, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>387</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1809, List 1*, page 73, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>388</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1811, List 1*, page 66, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>389</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1812, List 1*, page 79, FHL microfilm #8255.

On 2 Jan 1813, George Williams and Moses Pruitt were witness to the survey of 75 acres that was being assigned from Samuel Thompson to Simon Williams.<sup>390</sup>

George and his brother Bennet made land entries in Gibson County, Indiana Territory (present-day Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana) on 20 Jul 1814 for the NE ¼ of Section 15, T4S, R12W (which they assigned to Benjamin Holcomb and Lewis Duncan on 3 Nov 1818), and on 28 Dec 1814 for the NW ¼ of the same section. George also made a land entry for the NE ¼ of Section 19, T4S, R11W in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana on 5 Dec 1818,<sup>391</sup> later assigning the property to Lewis Williams (likely by around 1827).

Robert Montgomery 1834	George Harmon 1837	James Nesbit 1833	Avery Allen 1832	Elisha Kimball 17 Dec 1818	James Williams 1831	Lewis Williams 1831	Joel Yager 1831
William Wilcox 1839							
10 Thomas McClure 10 Feb 1815				Cynthiana David Benson 15 Oct 1813			
John Smith 18 Sep 1815				11 Thomas Duncan 23 Sep 1815			
George & Bennett Williams 28 Dec 1814		George & Bennett Williams 20 Jul 1814		Simon Williams 28 Mar 1814		Jonathan Jacques 8 Oct 1816	
15 William Downey 24 Dec 1814				14 George Eaton 7 Mar 1817			
				Herndon Meadows 1831		William Gambrel 1831	

Map showing properties originally patented jointly by Bennet Williams and George Williams.

<sup>390</sup> *South of Green River Series Kentucky Land Grants, Book 15*, page 323, Survey #11327, Certificate #698, Kentucky Secretary of State.

<sup>391</sup> *Vanderburgh County Tract Book #1, Land Purchases, 1805-1853*, transcribed by Mary Anthony McGary Chapter of the DAR (1968), page 41.



On 1 Sep 1832, George purchased for \$100 the N ½ S ½ NE ¼ of Section 15, T4S, R12W (40 acres) from Bennet and Mary (Martin) Williams.<sup>392</sup>

On 5 Jan 1837, George William purchased for \$100 the SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 16, T4S, R12W from Ebenezer Phillips, School Commissioner of Posey County.<sup>393</sup> For some reason a second deed by the same parties was recorded the same day conveying the exact same property.<sup>394</sup>

On 14 Jan 1837, George Williams purchased from Bennet and Polly Williams for \$100 a portion of the NW ¼ of Section 15, T4S, R12W, with the deed being witnessed by James Williams and Joseph Davis. However, the deed was signed by George and Audra Williams, not by Bennet and Polly.<sup>395</sup> On the same date, George and Audra Williams sold to Bennet Williams for \$100 a similar portion of land in the same quarter section. The witnesses were the same, and the deed was signed by Bennet and Polly, not by George and Audra.<sup>396</sup> The fact that the two deeds had been signed by the wrong parties would need to be corrected nearly a decade later, as was discussed in the section for Bennet Williams.

The will of George Williams, which follows, was probated on 26 Mar 1850. It names four sons and one daughter who survived him:<sup>397</sup>

*“I **George Williams** of Posey county Indiana do make and publish this, my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all my former wills heretofore made. First I direct that my body be \_\_\_\_tly interred and my soul I give back to Almighty God who gave it being and direct that my funeral be conducted in a manner corresponding to my estate and as to such estate of lands and chattels as it has pleased God to bless me with I dispose of in the following manner, to wit: I direct that my just debts be paid (if any) and funeral expenses as soon after my decease as possible out of the first money that may arise from my personal estate and I direct that all my personal estate be appraised and sold according to the laws of the State of Indiana, except my waggon and two horses and so much as is allowed to [page break] widow if my beloved wife should survive me \_\_\_\_\_. The proceeds to be equally divided between my four oldest children to wit **Thornton, James Perry, Asbury** and my daughter **Martha Ann Yager** and I direct that my youngest son **Romelia** have all the real estate of which I die seized in and the waggon and two horses on the following terms: He must amply provide for the temporal wants of his mother and at the end of two years pay to my oldest four children one hundred dollars each and for the better carrying of this will into effect I appoint **W<sup>m</sup> Davis** as executor of this my last will*

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<sup>392</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book F, page 154.

<sup>393</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book H, page 35.

<sup>394</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book H, pages 74 and 75.

<sup>395</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book H, page 365.

<sup>396</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book H, page 367.

<sup>397</sup> Posey County, Indiana Wills, Book B, pages 232 to 234. Also Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book Q, page 262.

and testament. In witness the testator **George Williams** have set my hand and seal this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 1849.<sup>398</sup>

“**George** his X mark **Williams** (seal)

“Signed, sealed and declared and published by the within named **George Williams** in this writing as his last will and testament in the presence of us and who have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses thereto in the presence of the testator and of each other.

“**Lewis Williams**  
**J. P. Williams**  
**Asbery [sic] Williams**”

In *Into This Fruitful Valley* by Gloria M. Cox (1980), on page 223 one additional child is noted – Ellison Williams – though no source for this information is given. If this is correct, then he probably died before reaching adulthood and prior to the 1850 Census.

George and Audra’s son, James Perry Williams, is mentioned on page 639 of Goodspeed Publishing Company’s *History of Posey County, Indiana* (1886):

“**JAMES P. WILLIAMS**, a retired farmer of Cynthiana, Ind., is the son of **George and Ordra (Journey) Williams**. They came to this State and county in early times and located near Cynthiana, where they remained till their father’s death in 1850. Since that time the mother has lived among her children, and has reached the advanced age of eighty-nine years. **James P.** was born in 1823...”

In 1850 Audra was living in Smith Township with sons James Perry and Romelia.

No 1860 Census was located for her.

In 1870 she was living with the family of her son Romelia Williams.

In 1880 she was living in the household of her son James Perry Williams.

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<sup>398</sup> This date is recorded in *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book Q*, Page 262, where it also notes that the will was proved on 26 May 1850.

## Proven Children

Thus, the proven children of George and Audra Williams are as follows:

1. **Thornton Williams**, b. 6 May 1820, d. 10 Dec 1894.<sup>399</sup> He married first, Julian Smithey on 6 May 1843 in Posey County (License #1443); second, Mariah Dean on 1 Dec 1856 in Gibson County; and third, Sarah J. Calvert on 29 Sep 1873 in Vanderburgh County.
2. **Martha Ann Williams**, b. 1822 (1850 Census). She married George Yager on 22 Nov 1838 in Vanderburgh County.
3. **James Perry Williams**, b. 8 Apr 1823, d. 7 Mar 1906.<sup>400</sup> He married Freelove Jane Gibson on 26 Sep 1850 in Posey County, Indiana.
4. **Asbury Williams**, b. 13 Nov 1824, d. 7 May 1863.<sup>401</sup> He married Pauline Jane Boyle in April 1847 in Posey County.
5. **Romelia B. Williams**, b. 1 Jul 1829, d. 5 Dec 1876.<sup>402</sup> He married Elizabeth Lindsay in Nov 1854 in Posey County.

The above list matches well with pre-1850 Census records for George's family, as shown in the analysis that follows.

The 1820 Census for Smith Townships finds him as head of the following household:

- Males: one under age 10 (Thornton), one 26-44 (George).
- Females: one 16-25 (Audra), one over 45 (?).

The female over age 45 was likely Audra's mother, as speculated in *Into This Fruitful Valley* by Gloria M. Cox (1980).

In 1830 he was also living in Smith Township, with the following household members:

- Males: two under age 5 (Romelia, Asbury), two 5-9 (James, Thornton), one 40-49 (George).
- Females: one aged 5-9 (Martha), one 30-39 (Audra).

The ages of Asberry (6) and Thornton (10) are a slight mismatch for this Census, but such minor deviations are not uncommon.

In 1838 Martha married George Yager.

The 1840 Census for Smith Township shows George as the head of the following household:

- Males: two age 10-14 (Romelia, Asbury), two 20-29 (Thornton, ?), one 50-59 (George).
- Females: one age 15-19 (?), and 40-49 (Audra).

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<sup>399</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #79629757 (no headstone photo), Williams Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>400</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #35758371 (no headstone photo), Liberty Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>401</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #35684896 (headstone photo), Liberty Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>402</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #35684995 (headstone photo), Liberty Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

James Perry was about 17 years old and Asberry was about 16, so it is curious why one of them is not accounted for in this Census, though it is likely that he was probably working on a nearby farm.

**Table 6.04 - Census Summary for the Household of George Williams<sup>403</sup>**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>1820</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>1840</b>	<b>Child</b>
GW1	M	1810-1820	1820-1825	1810-1820	Thornton, b. 1820
GW2	F		1820-1825	1820-1825	Martha, b. 1822
GW3	M		1820-1825		James, b. 1823
GW4	M		1825-1830	1825-1830	Asbury, b. 1824
GW5	M		1825-1830	1825-1830	Romelia, b. 1829
GW6	M			1810-1820	?
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1 minors</b>	<b>5 minors</b>	<b>5 minors</b>	<b>5 proven minors out of 7</b>

There are some slight mismatches between Census enumerations, but it appears that all of George's children have been accounted for. Available Census records match up reasonably well to the individuals named in George's will, and it appears that there were no surviving children left out of his will. GW6 of the 1840 Census appears not to be their child, since there was no match for him in earlier Census records, though it could be the record for James, if his age was under reported.

<sup>403</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

## SALLY WILLIAMS & JAMES MARTIN, JUNIOR

On 12 Dec 1805, Simon Williams provided written consent to the marriage of his daughter Sally to James Martin, Junior. Witnesses to the consent were Lewis Harmon and Bennet Williams. On the following day, James Martin and Bennet Williams posted the bond for the marriage.<sup>404</sup> Analysis in Chapter 4 concluded that the marriage was performed by Elder James Martin, Senior. Thus her brother posted her bond, her father gave consent, her brother-in-law was a witness and her father-in-law performed the ceremony.

As noted in Chapter 5, James Martin, Junior appeared on the tax rolls of Warren County, Kentucky for the two years (1806 and 1807) immediately following his marriage to Sally Williams. In both years he was living on land where his father, Elder James Martin, Senior, was the taxpayer.

Also as noted earlier, James Martin, Junior was present at an election at Jacob Warrick's house in 1809 and served in the militia in 1812. On 18 Apr 1814 he made a land entry for a property in Gibson County, Indiana Territory that was bisected by Maumee Creek, described as the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 4, T3S, R12W,<sup>405</sup> and received patent to the land on 2 Jul 1818.<sup>406</sup>

On 6 Oct 1814, James Martin was assigned as administrator of the will of James Robinson.<sup>407</sup> Buyers at the estate sale included both James Martins (Junior and Senior), plus Lewis Williams and William Williams.



*Sarah (Williams) Steel Martin*  
*Courtesy of 1\_pmonroe at Ancestry.com*

In Nov 1817 James added to the above mentioned property, acquiring from his neighbor, William Carlton, 80 acres of land for \$200, described as the SE  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 4, T3S, R12W.<sup>408</sup> This is a rather unusual division of land, as the quarter section had been split diagonally, from the NE corner to the SW corner. So it appears that in total James owned about 240 acres of land at the time of his death.

<sup>404</sup> Western Kentucky University's Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records, MSS 230, Box 2, Folder 10, Item 9.*

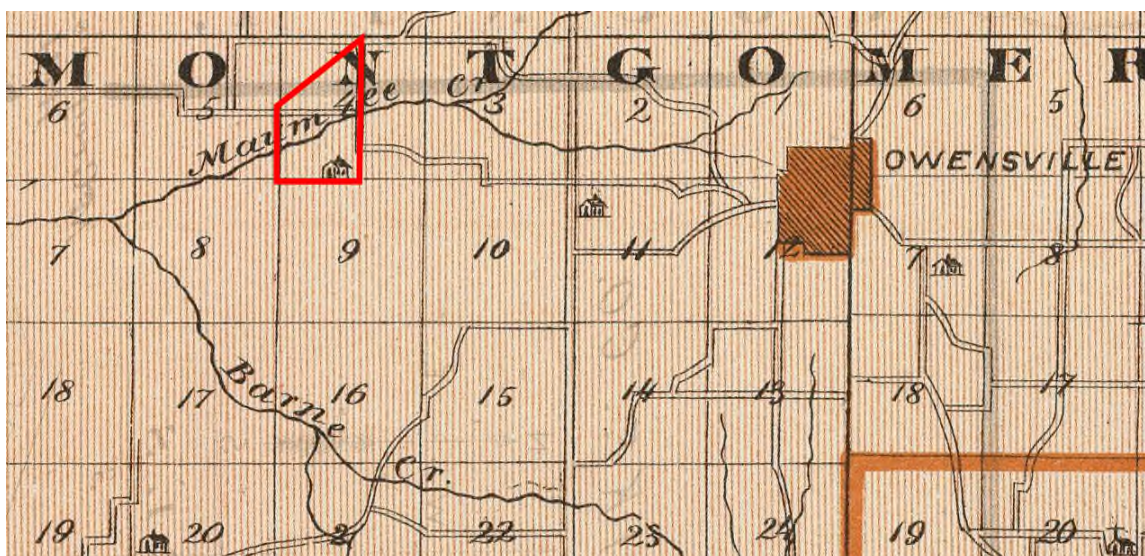
<sup>405</sup> Page 86, *Indiana Land Entries, Volume 2, Vincennes District, Part 1, 1807-1877* by Margaret R. Waters (1949).

<sup>406</sup> *General Land Office Records*, Accession #CV-0040-031.

<sup>407</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Wills, Book A*, page 31.

<sup>408</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Deeds, Book B*, page 292, recorded Mar 1818.





The 240 acres once owned by James Martin, Junior located in Montgomery Township.<sup>409</sup>

The following is a typewritten court transcription of James Martin's will, as provided by descendant Pam Farlow:<sup>410</sup>

*"In the name of God Amen*

*"I **James Martin** of the State of Indiana and County of Gibson being in a low state of health but through the mercies of God in a perfect state of mind and knowing that I must at some time depart this life and wishing to settle my worldly affairs do make and constitute this my last will and testament.*

*"First – My desire is that all my just debts if any be paid.*

*"Secondly – I leave to my dearly beloved wife **Sally** all my lands farming utensils household furniture, kitchen furniture, two horses three cows beside a cow that my son **Baily** claims and four ewes during her natural life and widowhood: also one years provisions and \_\_\_\_ for a second year.*

*"All the remainder of my property to be sold and ~~the money~~ with what money I leave to be laid out in land and equally divided among my children excepting 23 dollars which I have of my son '**Bayly**' and some hogs which my sons **Bayly** and **William** owns not to be sold.*

*"And lastly I leave my well beloved friend **James R. Waters** and **Patrick Calvert** my executors to this my last will and testament.*

*"Signed and acknowledges in presence of:*

*"George Sharp*

***James Martin***

*"George Johnston*

*Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1825"*

<sup>409</sup> Derived from *Map of Gibson County, Indiana* by Baskin, Forester & Co. (1876).

<sup>410</sup> Page 185, source not stated. Found on microfilm at Princeton Public Library.

The witness George ‘Johnston’ was probably the husband of Anna Williams. Patrick Calvert was the neighbor of James’ father, the Elder James Martin, both of whom lived in the northwest corner of Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County. Patrick was also a witness to the will of Bennet Williams and had served as a Lieutenant in the same militia company as had Lewis Harmon (but not at the same time).<sup>411</sup>

Sally’s widowhood did not last long, as she married her neighbor William Steel on 7 Jan 1828 in Gibson County, Indiana. On 5 Jun 1833, this William Steel made a land entry for a parcel located three quarters of a mile directly west of James Martin, Junior’s property.<sup>412</sup> Nearly four years later, on 1 Mar 1837, Sally walked out on William, and in turn he filed for divorce from her on 6 Aug 1839.<sup>413</sup> A final decree was issued at the Sep 1839 term of the court, which said in part:

*“...decree that the said **William Steel** be divorced from the said **Sally Steel** and that the marriage contract existing between them be henceforth held null and void and it is further ordered that the said **Sally Steel** retain in her own right the personal property now in her possession in lieu of and in bar of her dower right in the estate of the said **William Steel** and that she retain the possession and use of her dower estate in the lands of **James Martin** deceased and that the defendant recover of the petitioner her costs and charges herein expended.”*

On 20 Jul 1830 James Skelton et ux sold the NW ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 4, T3S, R12W to Bailey W. Martin for \$340.<sup>414</sup> The deed notes that the land was adjoining the land sold by William Carlton to James Martin. So this would have been the remainder of the NW ¼ of Section 4 after James’ 1817 purchase. So ultimately Bailey W. Martin became the owner of the entire west half of Section 4 – for a total of 320 acres.

After James R. Waters and Patrick Calvert had settled James’ estate, there was a balance of \$1,349.06 ½ remaining to be divided by his heirs. Of this, his widow claimed only \$80.46, leaving his eight children with an equal share of \$158.70 each.<sup>415</sup> The fact that she claimed such a small share of the estate would indicate that it was settled after her marriage to William Steel, whereby all of her interest in the estate passed to her children. It appears that this was not the final settlement of the estate, since at the August 1838 Term of the Gibson County Probate Court the administrators reported the net worth of the estate at that time as \$2,049.84.<sup>416</sup> And on that same day, Bailey W. Martin was appointed as guardian of his three youngest brothers:

*“At this time came **Andrew Martin**, aged 18 years on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May last, and **David Martin**, aged 16 year on the 30<sup>th</sup> March last and made choice of **Bailey W.***

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<sup>411</sup> <http://genealogytrails.com/ind/warof1812.html>.

<sup>412</sup> Page 87, *Indiana Land Entries, Volume 2, Vincennes District, Part 1, 1807-1877* by Margaret R. Waters (1949).

<sup>413</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Circuit Court Complete Record, Book C*, pages 480-482, and *Gibson County, Indiana Circuit Court Records, Box 194*, File 24.

<sup>414</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Deeds, Book D*, page 402, recorded 10 Oct 1830.

<sup>415</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Probate Orders, Book B*, page 25 (date not recorded, probably early 1838).

<sup>416</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Probate Orders, Book B*, page 124, August Term 1838.

***Martin** as their guardian. Whereupon the Court now appoint the said **Bailey W. Martin** as guardian of the said **Andrew** and **David** and **LeRoy Martin**, aged 12 years on the 29<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1838 minor heirs of **James Martin** dec'd by his entering into bond in the sum of fifteen hundred dollars with **James R. Waters** and **John Simpson** as his securities, whereupon the said guardian filed bond and was qualified in open court."*

At the November 1845 Term of the Gibson County Probate Court, Bailey Martin appeared and reported to the court that all of the moneys that he had held in trust as guardian to his brothers had been distributed, "leaving nothing in his hands."<sup>417</sup>

It appears that William M. Martin had died in 1849, as at the November 1849 Term of the Gibson County Probate Court (held on 14 Nov 1849), Leroy Martin was named as guardian to William's children: Alfred R., Rebecca, Elizabeth and James F. Martin. Bailey Martin posted his security.<sup>418</sup>

On 1 Jan 1851 Bailey Martin sold his father's original 160 acre property to his brother Leroy for \$450, though 80 acres was reserved as their mother's dower during her lifetime or widowhood, but to become Leroy's property upon her death or marriage.<sup>419</sup> On 28 Nov 1862 Bailey married his second wife, Nancy (Smith) Williams, the widow of James Williams (who was the son of Elder Lewis Williams). On 10 Jan 1865 Bailey was appointed as guardian of her son by her first marriage, Simon A. Williams.<sup>420</sup>

A review of Gibson County Grantee and Grantor deed indexes spanning roughly from 1813 to 1850 turned up several Martin deeds, including the following six deeds involving James Martin, Junior's property in Section 4, T3S, R12W:

**Table 6.05a: Disposition of James Martin, Junior's Real Estate.**

<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Recorded</b>	<b>Book &amp; Page</b>
George Martin	Bailey W. Martin	\$60	23 Feb 1832	D-585 <sup>421</sup>
William Martin	Bailey W. Martin	\$50	12 Dec 1832	D-689 <sup>422</sup>
John Martin	Bailey W. Martin	\$65	12 May 1835	E-450 <sup>423</sup>
James J. Fitzgerald	Bailey W. Martin	\$130	11 Dec 1840	G-519 <sup>424</sup>
Andrew Martin	Bailey W. Martin	\$100	3 Aug 1840	H-230 <sup>425</sup>
David & Leroy Martin	Bailey W. Martin	\$200	24 Sep 1850	N-187

<sup>417</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Probate Orders, Book C*, page 152.

<sup>418</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Probate Orders, Book D*, page 108.

<sup>419</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Deeds, Book N*, page 289.

<sup>420</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Probate Files* stored at the County Courthouse in Mount Vernon. This document was found in the probate file of Lewis Williams. The files are stored alphabetically.

<sup>421</sup> William Martin was witness. Lewis Harmon was justice of the peace.

<sup>422</sup> Laxton Harmon and Augustin W. Wilborn were witnesses.

<sup>423</sup> Abraham Breedlove and James R. Waters were witnesses.

<sup>424</sup> William A. Davis and George Martin were witnesses.

<sup>425</sup> John McFadin and James Boswell were witnesses.

Each individual conveyed approximately 30 acres each (William conveyed 32 acres) to Bailey, for a total of 212 acres. If Bailey also had a similar share, then they account for all of the approximately 240 acres that James had owned. The deeds state that each of these acreages was conveyed as “an undivided claim,” meaning that each child had an interest in an unspecified 30 acres of the property. So it is clear that this referred to the 160 acre patent of James Martin plus the adjoining 80 acres to the north that he purchased in 1817. Thus each of the heirs had a 1/8<sup>th</sup> interest in the land, consistent with the probate order record cited earlier.

On 30 May 1856, Leroy and Nancy E. (Hargrove) Martin of Henderson County, Kentucky sold the 160 acre property that had been patented by James Martin, Junior to Harrison Sharp for \$1,000.<sup>426</sup> If there had been a family cemetery located on this property, then this deed documents when the property left family hands.

The following are biographical accounts of two of James Martin, Junior’s children, which are both consistent with what we’ve just learned about James’ family:<sup>427</sup>

*“**JOHN MARTIN**, deceased, was born in Gibson County, Ind., August 14, 1813. He was a son of **James and Sarah (Williams) Martin**, and was the third of six children, of whom two are living. His education was received in the schools of that day, and was somewhat meager, his father having died when subject was a mere boy. The latter rendered what service he could to his mother, and remained at the home farm until he was twenty seven. Then, starting out in life, he married and settled down on a farm in that county, where he remained until 1847, and then came to Jefferson County, where he settled in Elk Prairie Township, on the farm now occupied by his widow. His first purchase of 200 acres had been partially cleared. By careful saving and frugality he added to that until at the time of his death he owned about nine hundred acres, which have since been divided amongst his heirs. In Gibson County, Ind., February 11, 1841, Mr. Martin was wedded to **Julia Ann Armstrong**,<sup>428</sup> who was born in Wayne County, Ill., April 2, 1822, and is a daughter of **Elsberry and Elizabeth (Landers) Armstrong**, who were probably originally natives of Indiana...”*

*“**J. J. FITZGERRELL**, P.O. Fitzgerald, probably one of the foremost and extensive farmers in Jefferson County, the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, was born about three miles from Owensville, Gibson Co., Ind., January 25, 1815... Our subject was married in Posey Co., Ind., March 24, 1837, to **Patsey Ann Martin**, a native of Gibson Co., Ind., and a daughter of **James and Sarah (Williams) Martin**, who were, probably, originally from Kentucky, and among the earliest settlers of Gibson County...”*

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<sup>426</sup> Gibson County, Indiana Deeds, Book 3, page 453.

<sup>427</sup> History of Jefferson County, Illinois, Part IV, Biographical Sketches by William Henry Perrin (1883), pages 141 (John Martin) and 139 (Patsey Ann Martin, wife of J. J. Fitzgerald).

<sup>428</sup> Julia lived to be over 98 years old. Her parents were married in Knox County, Indiana Territory, so they were certainly not natives of Indiana. Interestingly, her parents were living in Wayne County, Illinois when she married in Vanderburgh County, Indiana.



As already noted, James Martin, Junior owned the SW ¼ of Section 4, T3S, R12W. And the preceding biography correctly notes that this property was located three miles to the west of Owensville. The northeast corner of this property abuts the southwest corner of a property owned by Thomas Waters, who likely was the father of James' "beloved friend James R. Waters" as mentioned in his will.<sup>429</sup> However, John Martin's biography stated he "was the third of six children, of whom two are living." Clearly only the last part of this statement is correct, that the two youngest sons, David A. and Leroy, were alive in 1883. Whoever had contributed the biography hadn't met all of John's siblings. The map below shows that David, William, Andrew and Patsy all lived next to one another in Franklin County, Illinois, in Section 5, T5S, R2E. Together with Leroy that makes six children. So it was George and Bailey who were omitted, which is interesting, since Bailey had joined the others in Franklin County by 1860, though he lived more than eight miles away from them.<sup>430</sup> It turns out that John was fourth in birth order among his siblings.

*Map of original patentees in Section 5, T5S, R2E, Franklin County, Illinois  
showing patents by descendants of James Martin, Junior.*



## Proven Children

Based upon the information above, the proven children of Sally and James are:

1. **George Martin**, b. 1807 (1850 Census), d. after 1850. He married Phereby Simpson on 11 Nov 1824 in Gibson County.
2. **Bailey W. Martin**, b. 1810 (1870 Census), d. Oct 1870.<sup>431</sup> He married first, Mary Armstrong on 6 Aug 1835 in Posey County, and second, Nancy (Smith) Williams (widow of James Williams, the son of Lewis Williams) on 28 Nov 1862 in Vanderburgh County.
3. **William Martin**, b. 11 Jan 1811, d. 11 Dec 1849 (both dates unsourced). He married Emaline Duncan on 29 Oct 1837 in Gibson County.
4. **John Martin**, b. 14 Aug 1813, d. 14 Aug 1875.<sup>432</sup> He married Julia Ann Armstrong 11 Feb 1841 in Vanderburgh County, Indiana.
5. **Patsey Ann Martin**, b. 27 Jul 1819, d. 31 Mar 1862.<sup>433</sup> She married James Fitzgerrell on 23 Mar 1837 in Gibson County.
6. **Andrew Martin**, b. 22 May 1820 (probate record). He married America Reeves on 7 Jan 1844 in Gibson County. She remarried in late 1851, so he likely died early that year.
7. **David A. Martin**, b. 30 Mar 1822, d. 31 Mar 1894.<sup>434</sup> He married Mary Ann Reeves on 4 Jan 1843 in Gibson County.
8. **Leroy Martin**, b. 29 Aug 1826 (probate record), d. 14 Jul 1889.<sup>435</sup> He married first, Nancy Eleanor Hargrove on 1 Jan 1846 in Gibson County, and second, Mary Earle in Jan 1879 at Cottonwood Falls, Chase County, Kansas.<sup>436</sup>

A quick analysis confirms that there is a place for these children in pre-1850 Census records, and tells us the age range of the one son who remains unidentified:

The 1820 Census for Gibson County shows the following household, headed by James Martin:

- Males: four under age 10 (Andrew, ?, John, William), two 10-15 (Bailey, George), one 26-44 (James).
- Females: one under age 10 (Patsy), one 26-44 (Sally).

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<sup>431</sup> *Franklin County, Illinois Wills, Book A*, page 148. The will was written on 20 Sep 1870 and proven on 17 Oct 1870.

<sup>432</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #11053744 (headstone photo), Old Baptist Cemetery, Jefferson County, Illinois.

<sup>433</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #75848812 (headstone photo), Horse Prairie Cemetery, Franklin County, Illinois.

<sup>434</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #11053715 (headstone photo), Old Baptist Cemetery, Jefferson County, Illinois.

<sup>435</sup> *Los Angeles Herald*, Volume 32, Number 95, 15 July 1889, morning edition, page 5, column 3. Death notice.

<sup>436</sup> *History of Chase County: compiled for the Case County Leader* by Prof. D. A. Ellsworth (circa 1900, unbound manuscript), page 150. From <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/chase/ells2.htm>.

In 1824 George Martin was married and living on his own and thus he is likely not amongst those enumerated in 1830 Census for Gibson County of William Steel's household:

- Males: two under age 5 (?, ?), four 5-9 (?, Leroy, David A., Andrew), four 15-19 (?, Bailey, John, William), one 40-49 (William Steel).
- Females: three 10-14 (?, ?, Patsy), one 40-49 (Sally).

It would seem that this is a blended household, including Williams Steel's children by an earlier wife or wives. As such, it is of little use in this analysis, but is included to confirm the probability that all of Sally's unmarried children remained with her in 1830.

In 1835 Bailey Martin was married, and William Martin was married in 1837. Both had established their own households by the 1840 Census. And in 1837 James' widow walked out on William Steel, with the divorce being finalized in 1839. Also in 1837, Patsy Ann married J. J. Fitzgerrell, and they too had established a separate household.

Thus Sally was the head of her own household in the 1840 Census:

- Males: Two aged 15-19 (Leroy, David A.), two 20-29 (John, Andrew).
- Females: One aged 15-19 (?), one aged 50-59 (Sally).

The following table summarizes the preceding analysis:

**Table 6.05b - Census Summary for the Household of James Martin, Junior<sup>437</sup>**

ID	Sex	1820	1830	1840 <sup>438</sup>	Child
JM1	M	1805-1810			George, b. about 1808
JM2	M	1805-1810			Bailey W., b. 1809
JM3	M	1810-1820			William, b. 1811
JM4	M	1810-1820		1810-1820	John, b. 1813
JM5	M	1810-1820			?
JM6	F	1810-1820		1820-1825	Patsey Ann, b. 1819
JM7	M	1810-1820		1810-1820	Andrew, b. 1820
JM8	M			1820-1825	David A., b. 1822
JM9	M			1820-1825	Leroy, b. 1826
<b>Totals</b>		<b>7 minors</b>	<b>? minors</b>	<b>5 minors</b>	<b>8 proven minors out of 9</b>

## Unproven Children

Some researchers have thought that James and Sally had a daughter named Sally. That mistake is caused by a lack of knowledge of Sally (Williams) Martin Steel's divorce from William Steel: William Steel had married James' widow, not James' daughter.

There is evidence of only one son of James Martin, Junior that remains unidentified: JM5. He appears to have died prior to 1825, so he would not have been of age at his father's death. It appears that his death preceded that of his father.

<sup>437</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

<sup>438</sup> This is the household of James' widow, after she had divorced William Steel.

## LEWIS WILLIAMS & ELENDER CATER

Lewis Williams married Elender Cater on 20 Jan 1810 in Warren County, Kentucky. She died on 27 Jun 1870 at 77 years, 9 months of age and he was born 19 May 1789 and died 7 Aug 1864.<sup>439</sup> Various spellings of both their given names abound, with the versions used herein taken from their headstones.

In Jan 1810 (day not specified) Ellender Cater gave written consent for her daughter Elender Cater to marry Lewis Williams, with Moses Pruitt and Israel Davis as witnesses. And on 16 Jan 1810, Lewis Williams and Moses Pruitt posted the marriage bond.<sup>440</sup>

In 1811 Lewis first appears on a tax list for Warren County, Kentucky, living on the waters of Trammel Creek. The listing prior to his was for George Williams, and two listings below his was Simon Williams. No specific date is provided for when they paid taxes. George and Lewis were not taxed for land, though both men paid the poll tax, and George was also taxed for two horses, while Lewis was taxed for one horse.<sup>441</sup> Though George and Simon are found listed side-by-side in the 1812 tax list, Lewis is not found listed near them, though much of that tax list is unreadable. It seems likely that he was not in Warren County when that tax list was created.<sup>442</sup>



*The badly worn and broken headstone of Elder Lewis Williams at the Simon Williams Family Cemetery.*

In August and September 1812 Lewis served as a private in Captain Joseph Montgomery's Company in the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Indiana Militia,<sup>443</sup> together with Private Patrick Calvert.<sup>444</sup> This was two months prior to the Battle of Tippecanoe”), which Captain Montgomery had participated in (Lewis is not found on the rolls during the enlistment period that spans the date of the Battle).<sup>445</sup> If he had served sufficient time in the militia, he would have been eligible to receive bounty land for his service.

<sup>439</sup> *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carrol O. Cox (1979), page 56.

<sup>440</sup> Western Kentucky University's Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records, MSS 230, Box 4, Folder 2, Items 37-2 and 37-3.*

<sup>441</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1811, List 1*, page 66, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>442</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1812, List 1*, page 79, FHL microfilm #8255. Only about 70% of each page is readable, but he is not found within several entries before or after Simon Williams.

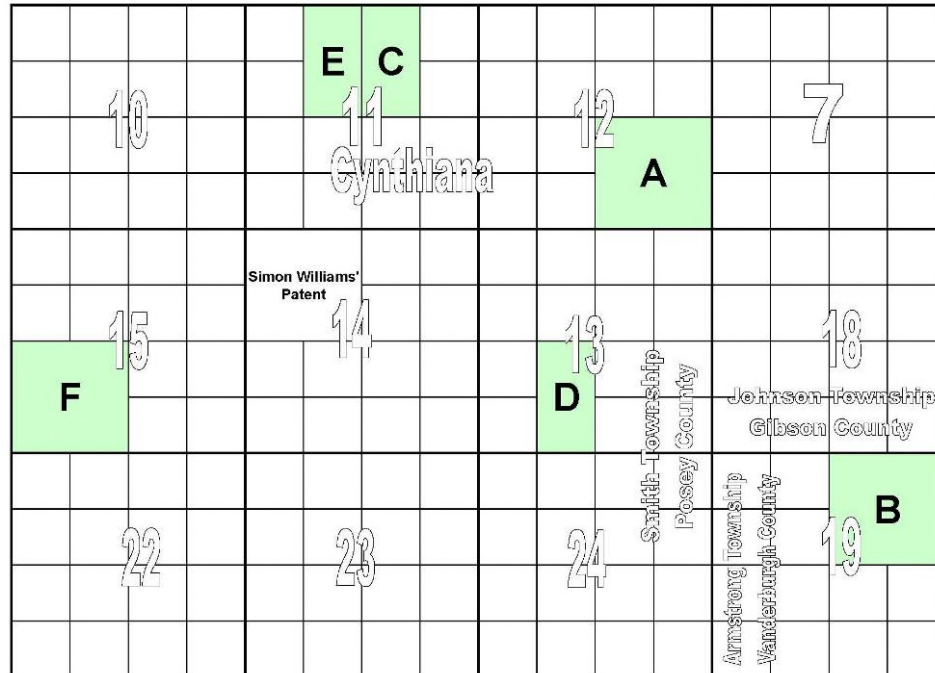
<sup>443</sup> *Indiana, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes, 1790-1890* (1999), Ancestry.com.

<sup>444</sup> *Muster, pay and receipt rolls of Indiana Territory volunteers or militia of the period of the War of 1812, Volume 4* (1926), pages 564, 565, 566 and 567, U.S. Adjutant General's Office.

<sup>445</sup> <http://usgwararchives.net/ky/tippecanoe/chapter11.html>.

In 1813 Lewis Williams is again on the Warren County tax list, paying only for one horse and the poll tax.<sup>446</sup>

Lewis (also known as “Luky”) made his entry for land described as the SE ¼ of Section 12, T4S, R12W in Posey County on 19 Aug 1817 (Property A).<sup>447,448</sup> It was one mile due east of the property purchased by Simon Williams in 1814 and just southeast of Liberty Cemetery. He assigned the property to members of the Forrest family (date unknown), who completed the purchase of the property on 6 Jun 1827.<sup>449</sup>



*Parcel map of properties owned by Lewis and Elender (Cater) Williams.*

Lewis Williams is listed in Leffel’s *History of Posey County, Indiana* (1913) as being among the earliest preachers in Smith Township, and on page 49 he is again listed as having entered land in 1817 (shortly after Simon, George and Bennet had in 1814). He was also counted among the earliest Baptist preachers in Posey County, with it being implied that he had preached in a small log house built in 1815 in Bethel Township (page 135). This appears unsupported by facts, or perhaps it was not the author’s intended meaning. While he was among the early preachers, he performed no marriages in Posey County prior to 1831. His first marriage ceremony in Gibson County occurred on 19 Aug 1830 (William Masters and ?), and in the next decade there are only records showing that he performed two more marriages there, both for sons of his sister, Polly (Williams) Harmon: on 5 Mar 1835 for George Harmon, Senior and Martha Simpson; and on 8 Feb 1838 for Micajah Harmon and Mary Ann Spilman.

<sup>446</sup> Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1813, List 1, page 74, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>447</sup> Page 294 of Goodspeed’s *History of Posey County, Indiana* (1886).

<sup>448</sup> *Genealogy Lists of Posey County, IN, Volume I* by Darlene McConnell (1996), page 3.

<sup>449</sup> General Land Office Records, accession #CV-0085-342.

On 11 May 1818 Lewis Williams posted bond for the estate of his neighbor, Jesse Kimball.<sup>450</sup> And at some time prior to Nov 1818, Lewis Williams was a buyer at the estate of John Sterrit (it is possible that John Sterrit was related to William Cater's wife, Jennette).<sup>451</sup>

On 5 Dec 1818, George Williams had made a land entry for 160 acres located at NE ¼ of Section 19, T4S, R12W (Property B – this was a little over a mile southeast of Lewis' 1817 land entry).<sup>452</sup> At some point he assigned his interest in this property to Lewis, who completed the purchase on 26 May 1827.<sup>453</sup> George had likely acquired the 160 acre property after he and Bennet assigned one of their two 160 acre properties (the one that abutted the property of Simon Williams) to Lewis Duncan and Benjamin "Halcum" [sic: Holcomb].<sup>454</sup>

At the Nov 1825 term of the Warren County, Kentucky Probate Court, Lewis Williams was noted as having a note due to the estate of Joseph Richardson.<sup>455</sup>

On 14 Jul 1827 Lewis and Elender (Cater) Williams sold 60 acres in the NE ¼ of Section 19, T4S, R11W in Vanderburgh County (Property B) to his brother-in-law Joseph Cater for \$75.<sup>456</sup> On 12 Sep 1831 Lewis and "Nella" (Cater) Williams sold the remaining 100 acres in Section 19 to William Finch for \$250.<sup>457</sup> William Pruitt (almost certainly the son of Moses and Phebe [Williams] Pruitt) was one of the witnesses.



*The headstone fragment thought to be that of Lewis' wife, Elender.*

On 31 Dec 1831 Lewis completed the purchase of two additional 80 acre patents. One was the W ½ NE ¼ of Section 11, located ½ mile north of Simon Williams' property (Property C), and the other was the E ½ SW ¼ of Section 13 (Property D), located ½ mile south of his original Section 12 property, and 1 mile west of his property in Vanderburgh County.<sup>458</sup>

On 6 Mar 1833, James and Malinda (?) Williams sold to Lewis Williams for \$100 the E ½ NW ¼ of Section 11, T4S, R12W, which James had patented on 10 Apr 1832

<sup>450</sup> *Posey County, Indiana, Probate Orders*, Book A, page 121.

<sup>451</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Wills*, Book A, pages 201-204.

<sup>452</sup> *Vanderburgh County Tract Book #1, Land Purchases, 1805-1853*, Mary Anthony McGary Chapter DAR (1968), page 41.

<sup>453</sup> *General Land Office Records*, accession # CV-0085-262.

<sup>454</sup> *General Land Office Records*, accession # CV-0041-532.

<sup>455</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky, Wills and Inventories, Book C, July Term 1823 through January Term 1827* by Sandra K. Gorin (1993), pages 59 and 60. (1993)

<sup>456</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book B*, page 77.

<sup>457</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book B*, page 253.

<sup>458</sup> *Records*, Accession # IN0060\_.180 and IN0060\_.281.



(Property E).<sup>459,460</sup> John A. Stephens and Calvin Drysdale (Bennet Williams' son-in-law) were witnesses.

On 13 Nov 1835, Lewis and Elender sold 38 ½ acres in the W ½ E ½ SW ¼ of Section 13, T4S, R12W (Property D) to Thomas Alcorn for \$100,<sup>461</sup> which was witnessed by James Williams (Lewis' son) and Asa Knowles. For some reason a duplicate deed for this property was written on 13 Feb 1836,<sup>462</sup> which was witnessed by Simon Williams, who was able to sign his own name (the name of a second witness is unclear, but it could have been a Harmon). Though Lewis' son Simon was not yet 20 years of age, in light of James Williams signing the earlier deed, this Simon was likely Lewis' son and not his father (who would have made his mark, since he was unable to sign his own name in earlier deeds).

In 1840 Lewis was a subscribing witness to the will of George Williams. The other subscribing witnesses were George's sons, James Perry Williams and Asbury Williams.

On 21 Mar 1843, Lewis and Elender Williams sold to James Cater for \$300 part of the W ½ NE ¼ of Sec 11, T4S, R12W (Property C).<sup>463</sup>

On 12 Nov 1846 Lewis purchased the SW ¼ of Section 15, T4S, R12W from John and Amanda Pitcher and James and Elenor Downey (Property F).<sup>464</sup> This property abutted the southern boundary of the combined 480 acres entered by Simon, George and Bennet Williams in 1814.

Lewis and Elender (Cater) Williams sold to James and Eliza Jane (Kimball) Redman for \$1,000 approximately 128 acres located in Sec 11, T4S, R12W. The 128 acres consisted of parcels of 80 acres (Property E), 30 acres (the remaining balance of Property C) and 18 acres that was part of the SE ¼ of Section 11, T4S, R12W located north of the plat of Cynthiana (this was land originally patented by David Benson – how Lewis had acquired this property was not determined in researching this book).<sup>465</sup>

In the 1850 Census Elender and Lewis were living together with:

- Ordry, age 19, and
- Nancy Williams, age 7.

The head of the household was Lydia Williams, age 58, and her apparent children: Malinda, age 20; Lucinda, age 17; and John, age 16. Lydia (Lowe) Williams was the widow of Enoch Williams, Lewis' brother.

In the 1860 Census, which is barely legible, Elender and Lewis were living together with:

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<sup>459</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G*, page 477.

<sup>460</sup> *General Land Office Records*, Accession # IN0060\_469.

<sup>461</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G*, page 606.

<sup>462</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G*, page 605.

<sup>463</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book L*, pages 419 and 420.

<sup>464</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book O*, page 147.

<sup>465</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book O*, page 208.

- Mary E. Williams, age 17. This is likely a mistranscription of the Census record and the name should be granddaughter Nancy Williams, who was found living with them in the 1850 Census and who in 1864 married Benjamin Gwaltney.

The will of Lewis Williams is very difficult to read, as it was copied into the will book using a wide-nibbed pen (or an image shift created that effect). It gives us a complete accounting of his children that were alive at the time of his death, and also names three of his grandchildren:<sup>466</sup>

*“In the name of God Amen[.] I **Lewis Williams** of the County of Posey and State of Indiana being of sound mind and memory do make this my last will and testament[.] That is to say after all my just debts are paid I will and bequeath unto my beloved wife **Eleanor Williams** three hundred dollars of personal property also all my real estate divided as follows[:]  
Town Lot No. ?? of Elison Cales Enlargement of the town of Poseyville[,]  
Posey County[,]  
Indiana with all the rights and privileges thereunto  
belonging during her natural life time and at the death of my beloved wife I desire my appointed executor of this will to sell the above named real estate at public or private sale as he may deem most expedient for the benefit of the heirs of said **Lewis Williams** as hereinafter mentioned[.] I will and bequeath to the heirs of my son **Simon Williams** one dollar and to my granddaughter **Nancy E. Williams** fifty dollars and to my granddaughter **Malinda J. Endicott** twenty five dollars and to my grandson **Simon A. Williams** twenty five dollars and to my daughter **Permelia Malone** thirty dollars and bequeath the remainder of my estate as follows[:]  
??? to be equally divided between the following heirs namely my daughter **Elizabeth Gambrel** [,] my son **Perry A. Williams** [,] my daughter **Permelia Malone** [,] my daughter **Ordra Cleveland** [,] and my grand daughter **Nancy E. Williams** except one sixth of the last mentioned estate shall be sold and bequeathed to my grand daughter **Malinda J. Endicott** and my grand son **Simon A. Williams** equally and I appoint and confirm my esteemed friend **Payton W. Robb** as my legal executor of this my last will and testament voiding all former wills by me made[.] Given under my hand and seal this seventh day of April AD 1864.*

***Lewis his X mark Williams”***

There are also probate files at the Posey County Courthouse for Lewis and Elender. They are incomplete due to poorly executed research project in which many files were disemboweled.<sup>467</sup> Since then, volunteers have spent countless hours attempting to get related documents grouped together again. The old box and file had to be abandoned and records are now filed alphabetically. Fortunately, there were

<sup>466</sup> Posey County, Indiana Wills, Book 1, pages 175 & 176.

<sup>467</sup> This appears to have been a project of Carroll and/or Gloria Cox, since their seven volumes of Posey County probate records (published in 1994) can be found in the collection of Willard Library in Evansville, Indiana.

sufficient records that had been reconstituted to help in interpreting the difficult handwriting/blurred image found in the will book images.

Lewis' son Simon died in 1860, leaving behind his widow, Sally Boucher (Spilman) Williams Pruitt, and a large family. She had remarried to John B. Pruitt (son of Moses and Phebe [Williams] Pruitt) around 1863. Since only one dollar had been left to Simon's heirs, it suggests that they had already received their fair share of Lewis' estate.

Lewis' eldest son James had died in 1861, leaving his widow Nancy (Smith) Williams and children Malinda J. (Williams) Endicott and Simon A. Williams. Nancy remarried to Bailey W. Martin (grandson of Elder James Martin) in 1862.

The parenthood of granddaughter Nancy E. Williams is somewhat of a mystery. She was found in the 1850 and 1860 Census living with her grandparents. She was born about 1843, so her father would have been born before about 1822 or so. A later analysis of Simon's known children to his pre-1850 Census records shows that he only had two sons that meet this description: James and Simon, but both men were alive during the 1850 and 1860 Census. There is a sufficient gap in the ages of James' two known children that it would seem she was his child. Simon had two children born around the same time as Nancy, so it is far less likely she was his child.

In *History of White County Illinois* by Inter-State Publishing Company (1883), on page 933 we find that Permelia (Williams) Malone was the wife of Absalom Malone:

*“Absalom Malone, blacksmith; post office, Crossville; son of James and Christine (Hunter) Malone, natives of Kentucky and Pennsylvania respectively. Absalom was born in Gibson County, Ind., Sept. 7, 1821. He was educated in Indiana, and learned the trade of a blacksmith, which he has followed forty-nine years. In 1849 he married Pamela, daughter of Lewis and Ellenor (Cater) Williams, natives of South Carolina. They came to Indiana at an early day, and died there. Pamela was born Sept. 5, 1824. There have been twelve children by this marriage, four living [in 1884] – Charles, born Aug. 16, 1861 (married); William Thomas, born June 30, 1859 (married); Anna Fannie, born Nov. 22, 1863, wife of John Higginson; Stephen A. Douglas, born April 25, 1869. Mr. Malone and wife are members of the Regular Baptist church. Mr. Malone votes the Democratic ticket.”*

Lewis' daughter Elizabeth married William Gambrel and was living in Logan County, Illinois at the time of her father's death.

Lewis' son Perry Ander is found living next door to his sister Permelia in the 1850 Census for Posey County.

Lewis' daughter Audra married William H. Cleveland and they were living in Posey County at the time of Lewis' death.

There is a record of Lucinda Williams marrying Thomas J. Malone (brother of Absalom Malone) on 23 Nov 1839. On page 56 of Carroll O. Cox's *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* (1979) is the record of a grave marker at the Simon Williams Family Cemetery for Lucinda Malone, b. 15 Jun 1820, d. 15 Jan 1841. She matches the age and gender of an otherwise unidentified child of Lewis and Elender, and is almost certainly their child. There is no record of a child of hers surviving to see the 1850 Census. Her widowed husband remarried on 10 Feb 1842.

## Proven Children

Thus based on the will of Lewis Williams and other evidence, there is proof that the following individuals were children of Elender Cater and Lewis Williams:

1. **Elizabeth Williams**, b. 19 Dec 1810, d. 13 Aug 1890 (both dates from headstone).<sup>468</sup> She was the wife of William Gambrel and their first known child was Lucinda, who was born 25 Dec 1832 in Indiana.
2. **James Williams**, b. about 1812, d. about 1860. Per an 1833 deed, his first wife was named Malinda, but no record of their marriage was found. He married second Nancy Smith on 27 Jun 1835 in Posey County. They had two children: Malinda J. and Simon A. It is thought that he is the James Williams noted in *History of Posey County* (1886) by Goodspeed Publishing on page 304, who died 4 Jul 1861 “*at a celebration near Cynthiana. He was loading a cannon, when a premature discharge sent the ramrod through his body.*”
3. **Simon Williams**, b. 13 Mar 1816, d. 23 Jun 1860.<sup>469</sup> He married Sally Boucher Spilman on 28 Sep 1836 in Allen County, Kentucky.
4. **Lucinda Williams**, b. 15 Jun 1820, d. 15 Jan 1841.<sup>470</sup> She married Thomas J. Malone on 23 Nov 1839 in Posey County.
5. **Perry Ander Williams**, b. about 1825, d. about 1864. He married Nancy Meadows on 10 May 1846 in Posey County and they had several children together.
6. **Permelia Williams**, b. 5 Sep 1827, d. 15 Aug 1885.<sup>471</sup> She married Absalom Malone on 13 Aug 1846 in Posey County.
7. **Audra (Ordra) Williams**, supposedly b. about 1830, d. 3 Apr 1883.<sup>472</sup> She married William H. Cleveland on 30 Sep 1852 in Posey County.

Based upon the completeness of Lewis’ will, any other children of theirs must have died before their father and did not have any children that survived Lewis.

Let’s review pre-1850 Census records to see what other children are found in the households of Lewis and Elender, in order to determine the age and gender of any unidentified children.

In the 1810 Census of Warren County, Kentucky, Lewis’ household contains just two individuals: a male aged 16 to 25 and a female aged 16 to 25.

In 1820 Lewis and Elender were in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County with the following household members:

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<sup>468</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #58829111 (headstone photo), Evergreen Cemetery, De Witt County, Illinois.

<sup>469</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial # 17842752 (two headstones, photos of both), Baptist Cemetery, De Witt County, Illinois.

<sup>470</sup> *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* (1979) by Carroll O. Cox, page 56.

<sup>471</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #110263915 (headstone photo), Phillipstown Cemetery, White County, Illinois.

<sup>472</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #92629601 (no headstone photo), Friendsville Cemetery, Wabash County, Illinois. This memorial states that she was 56 years old at her death (b. 1827), but no Census record lists her year of birth as occurring any sooner than 1830.



- Males: two under age 10 (James, Simon), 1 26-44 (Lewis).
- Females: three under age 10 (Elizabeth, ?, ?), 1 26-44 (Elender).

In the 1830 Census for Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Lewis is the head of the following household:

- Males: one under age 5 (?), one 5-9 (Perry), one 10-14 (Simon), one 15-19 (James), one 40-49 (Lewis).
- Females: one under age 5 (Permelia), one 5-9 (Lucinda), two 10-14 (?, ?), one 15-19 (Elizabeth), one 30-39 (Elender).

James had married in 1835, Simon in 1836 and Elizabeth is thought to have married about 1830. Thus they are not found in the following household. In 1840 Lewis is found in Smith Township as head of a household of ten:

- Males: two under age 5 (?, ?), one 15-19 (Perry), one 20-29 (Thomas J. Malone?), one 40-49 (Lewis).
- Females: one aged 5-9 (Audra), two 10-14 (Permelia, ?), one 15-19 (Lucinda), one 40-49 (Elender).

**Table 6.06 - Census Summary for the Household of Lewis Williams<sup>473</sup>**

ID	Sex	1820	1830	1840	Child
LW1	F	1810-1820	1810-1815		Elizabeth, b 1810
LW2	M	1810-1820	1810-1815		James, b. 1812
LW3	M	1810-1820	1815-1820		Simon, b. 1816
LW4	F	1810-1820	1815-1820		Lucinda, b. 1820
LW5	F	1810-1820	1815-1820	1810-1820	?
LW6	M		1820-1825	1820-1825	Perry Ander, b. 1825
LW7	F		1820-1825	1820-1825	?
LW8	F		1825-1830	1825-1830	Permelia, b. 1827
LW9	M		1825-1830		?
LW10	F			1830-1835	Audra, b. 1830
LW11	M			1835-1840	?
LW12	M			1835-1840	?
<b>Totals</b>		<b>5 minors</b>	<b>9 minors</b>	<b>7 minors</b>	<b>7 proven minors out of 13</b>

<sup>473</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

## **Unproven Children**

We are left with five children for whom there is no direct evidence of their relationship to Lewis and Elender: LW5, LW7, LW9, LW11 and LW12.

### **LW5**

There is a grave for Sarah Williams, b. 1818, d. 1845, in the Simon Williams Family Cemetery. A search for a possible marriage record of a Williams male marrying a Sarah or Sally between about 1836 and 1845 yielded no possible clues. So she is likely an unmarried granddaughter of Simon Williams. In reviewing Census records for Simon's sons with unidentified daughters, there was only one potential match – Lewis Williams. And Lewis' household for the 1840 Census had a match for an unmarried daughter of her age, so it is most likely she was his child. Since she died unmarried, the point of proving this is pretty much moot.

### **LW7**

In the Simon William Cemetery there is the grave of Martha J. Williams, who was b. 1822 and d. 1846. A search for a Williams male marrying a Martha or Patsy between about 1840 and 1846 yielded no possible clues. She would seem to have been an unmarried granddaughter of Simon Williams. Lewis Williams had an unconfirmed daughter of this age range, so she likely was his daughter. But since she died unmarried the point is moot.

### **LW9**

We have only the one Census record for LW9, who would have been no more than age 15 in the 1840 Census. Since this was a male, there is a possibility that he was apprenticing outside the household, but only if he were at the upper end of the possible range of birth years. It is somewhat more likely that he died in childhood.

### **LW11 & LW12**

And finally, there are two small children in Lewis' 1840 household (LW11, LW12), one or both of whom could have been their children. These individuals do not show up in Lewis' household in the 1850 Census, so if they were his children it seems that they died young. There is a good chance they were the children of Thomas J. Malone.

## POLLY WILLIAMS & WILLIAM HARMON

As covered in Chapter 4, Polly and William received Simon Williams' consent to marry on 24 May and Elder James Martin performed the ceremony. They married in either 1807 or 1808, not 1803 as incorrectly reported in two different Warren County marriage abstracts. It seems that she died before the 1850 Census. William is not found in the 1860 Census, suggesting that he had died by that time.<sup>474</sup>

The true date of Polly's marriage is helpful in determining whether which of Simon's daughter she was: Mary Elizabeth Williams, born 5 Mar 1780, or Mary Williams, born 8 Nov 1791? Let's review what the facts in the public record tell us about William Harmon's wife:

1. Simon's written consent to her marriage would imply that she was not yet 21 years old at that time. If the marriage took place in 1803, then she was born after 1782, if the marriage took place in 1807, then she was born after 1786. Mary Elizabeth Williams meets neither of these criteria: only Mary Williams meets either of these criteria.
2. The age of William Harmon's wife in the 1820 Census approximates to a year-of-birth range from 1795 to 1804. Neither woman meets this criterion.
3. The age of William Harmon's wife in the 1830 Census approximates to a year-of-birth range from 1790-1800. Only Mary Williams meets this criterion.
4. The age of William Harmon's wife in the 1840 Census approximates to a year-of-birth range from 1790-1800. Only Mary Williams meets this criterion.

Thus, the available evidence shows that William Harmon's wife was far more likely to have been Mary Williams, b. 8 Nov 1791. On 24 May 1807, she would have been only 15 ½ years old, though that is only the date of her father's consent, not the date of their marriage. It is possible that her year of birth was recorded incorrectly by Mrs. Ramsey, or that she had married in 1808. Either possibility would allow for her to have been at least 16 years old when she married. That is young for the time, but not uncommon.

There were two William Harmons living in the vicinity of Gibson County prior to 1820 (one of whom wrote a will around 1818), so it is difficult to ascertain which William Harmon is being referred to in records there prior to around 1820. By 1820, Polly's husband was the only William Harmon found there in public records.

(There are two early land entries in Gibson County supposedly made by William Harmon: an entry dated 7 Nov 1807 for the SE ¼ of Section 24, T3S, R12W, and one dated 22 Mar 1810 for the SW ¼ of Section 24, T3S, R12W. The owner of these properties was actually William Hamer of Knox County, and he assigned interest in both properties to Smith Mounts, on 15 Jul 1811 and 30 Jun 1814, respectively.)

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<sup>474</sup> Western Kentucky University's Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records*, MSS 230, Box 7, Folder 1, Items 18-2 and 18-3.

A William Harmon is found on a Mar 1810 petition recommending John McCanless as a replacement for the current High Sheriff, who was resigning.<sup>475</sup> This was likely the William Harmon who wrote his will in 1818. This is because a William Harmon is found in the 1810 Census for Warren County, Kentucky, living next to Uriah Davis (who in 1820 was a neighbor of Elder James Martin). The latter was likely the husband of Polly Williams.

A torn page of an 1812 Warren County, Kentucky tax list would seem to include the name of William Harmon, but it is difficult to say this with certainty.<sup>476</sup> If correct, this is likely our William Harmon. His name is not found in later tax rolls for Warren County.

There is record of a William Harmon serving during the War of 1812 in the Third Regiment Indiana Militia under Captain Justus Sartwell in April 1813, where he served as a replacement for Moses Lyon.<sup>477</sup> This was likely our William Harmon, since on page 303 of Goodspeed's *History of Posey County* (1886) he is listed with three other men of Smith Township who had participated in the Battle of Tippecanoe (assuming that author had received accurate information – the other William Harmon had lived in Montgomery Township, Gibson County).<sup>478</sup>

In Sep 1815 William Harmon and Jeremiah Harmon were buyers at the estate sale of John Johnson.<sup>479</sup> And in 1816 William Harmon was a buyer at the estate sale of Baptist Patterson.<sup>480</sup> Again, it is difficult to speculate on which William Harmon is being referred to in these records.

The other William Harmon died prior to the 1820 Census. His widow, Susannah, may be the Nancy Harmon who is found in that Census with a household of four sons and three daughters. This Nancy Harmon married William W. Waters in 1826, and her 1850 Census record lists her as Nancy S. Waters; thus the "S" probably stood for Susannah as she appears to have been the only widow Harmon in the 1820 Census for Gibson, Posey or Vanderburgh Counties.

On 10 Apr 1832 William Harmon received a patent for 69 and 22/100 acres, which was described as the E ½ of Section 4, T4S, R12W (which would normally describe a property containing 320 acres of land, but the patent only pertained to the southern portion that was located within Posey County limits – it didn't include the 250 acre portion that was in Gibson County).<sup>481</sup> He had made the original land entry for that property on 22 Oct 1831.<sup>482</sup>

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<sup>475</sup> *Indiana Territorial Records 1801-1815* by Charles M. Franklin (1983), page 41.

<sup>476</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1812, List 1*, page 33, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>477</sup> *Muster, pay and receipt rolls of Indiana territory volunteers or militia of the period of the War of 1812, Volume 4* (1926), U.S. Adjutant General's Office, pages 607a, 608a and 609a.

<sup>478</sup> After Posey County was created in 1816, the other William Harmon is only found in records of Gibson County. The Battle of Tippecanoe was fought on 7 Nov 1811.

<sup>479</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Wills, Book A*, pages 187-192.

<sup>480</sup> *Gibson County, Indiana Wills, Book A*, pages 161-166 and 258-260.

<sup>481</sup> *General Land Office Records*, Accession # IN0060\_408.

<sup>482</sup> *Genealogy Lists of Posey County, IN, Volume I* by Darlene McConnell (1996), page 1.

An analysis of pre-1850 Census records shows that William was the father of as many as twelve children: eleven sons and one daughter. One of the sons almost certainly died young, while another of the males may have been a hired hand or in-law, rather than a son. So we likely are only looking for nine sons that survived infancy.

The 1850 Census provides direct proof of several of the children of Polly and William. In that Census, William is living in the household of Andrew Harmon (Polly had died a short time earlier). Also in the household are his sons Ewing, John and Bailey.

In *Posey County Indiana - A Documented History 1882-1900: Volume III, Death Records* by Carroll O and Gloria M. Cox (1983-1992) on page 96 it states:

*“HARMON, JOEL 77, male, white lived CYNTHIANA. Married. Cause of death fibroma posterior to stomach. Occupation Laborer. Born POSEY CO. Place of death CYNTHIANA. Date of death June 28, 1889. Father WILLIAM HARMON born SOUTH CAROLINA; Mother POLLEY WILLIAMS. Under birthplace is written (can't find out). Date of return July 17, 1889. Reported by J. E. Gudge”*

And to that we can add the following additional details about Joel Harmon and his wife, courtesy of Robert E. Turman (please note that, at best, this is second hand information):<sup>483</sup>

*“As previously mentioned, the 1868 will of Mrs. Julius (Sarah) Broyles referred to her daughter, Mrs. Angeline Harmon. She was born in 1828 in Kentucky, and must have come to Indiana with her parents when a small child. She became the wife of Joel Harmon, who was a son of William Harmon and his wife, Betsy [sic] (Williams) Harmon. Old-timers will recall that Joel and Angeline Harmon were the parents of the late Mrs. Nan Barrett, Mrs. Sally Tudor, and James William Harmon (1847-1929), called ‘Uncle Bill.’”*

This is the only published source that gives the name of William Harmon’s bride as Betsy Williams, so his source appears to have been from the camp that would seem to have incorrectly concluded that William had married Mary Elizabeth Williams.

There is a deed dated 19 Jan 1842 where William and Polly Harmon sell their Section 9, T4S, R12W property shown on the map below to Simon Harmon for \$100, which was witnessed by James Lafferty, J.P. and George Harmon.<sup>484</sup> The property abutted a property also in Section 9 that Simon Harmon had entered from the Federal Government on 21 Jan 1835,<sup>485</sup> for which he received the patent on 1 Oct 1835.<sup>486</sup> The northern boundaries of these two properties abutted William Harmon’s 70 acres in Section 4. Also

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<sup>483</sup> *The Genealogy Newspaper Columns of Robert E. Turman*, Tri-State Genealogical Society (1987), page 219.

<sup>484</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book L*, page 40.

<sup>485</sup> Page 2, *Genealogy Lists of Posey County, IN, Volume 1* by Darlene McConnell (1996).

<sup>486</sup> *General Land Office Records*, Accession # IN0140\_326.



Nathaniel Barrett				Rezin Gale		James D Wilson		Montgomery Township Gibson County
4				3				
		William Harmon						Smith Township, Posey County
Nathaniel Barrett	James Rosborough	Simon Harmon	William Harmon	Robert Montgomery	George Harmon	James Nesbit	Avery Allen	
Alexander Rutter		James Rosborough	John Yager	William Wilcox				
	James Rosborough	9		Ogden Jacquess	10			
			Jonathan Oglesby	James Nesbit Thomas McClure		James Nesbit John Smith		

#### Smith Township, Posey County

*Map highlighting Harmon patents in Smith Township.*

on 19 Jan 1842, George Harmon deeded to Simon Harmon for \$60 a 40 acre property one quarter mile west of the property just noted. It was witnessed by William Harmon and James Lafferty, J.P.<sup>487</sup>

Elizabeth Harmon married Jeremiah Spilman in Posey County on 28 Mar 1850, and Micajah Harmon married Mary Ann Spilman on 8 Feb 1838. Coupled with the following records of the 1850 and 1860 Census, these marriages provide indirect proof that Elizabeth Harmon and Micajah Harmon were also children of Polly and William.

The marriages of both Micajah Harmon and George Harmon were performed by Elder Lewis Williams and Polly Harmon, who lived only a mile or so east of William Harmon's patent. And Simon Harmon's is the only Harmon headstone recorded in any of the surveys of the Simon Williams Family Cemetery. These facts lend further support to the notion that all of these men were sons of William Harmon.

In the 1850 Census the abutting neighbors of Micajah Harmon and his family were Jeremiah Spilman and his new bride, Elizabeth Harmon.

<sup>487</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book L, page 41.

In the 1860 Census, the widower Jeremiah Spilman and his son, Samuel B. Spilman, are listed with Andrew Harmon and his wife, plus Ewing Harmon and Jas Harmon (the latter is almost certainly James S. Harmon, a son of Andrew's older brother, Simon Harmon, who had died in 1847 – James is found in the 1850 Census with his widowed mother and seven siblings living next door to Andrew Harmon). At that time they were living a few miles to the east of William Harmon's farm.

The above is somewhat circumstantial, but with all of these people showing up in the same household it is about as strong as circumstantial evidence ever gets, especially in an area as sparsely populated as this. And later you will see that all these people fit the age and gender characteristics of William and Polly's family members in pre-1850 Census records.

William Harmon sold the property that he had patented on 15 Feb 1853 to Marvel Knowles for \$1,000, with the understanding that the buyer would also pay off a \$99 mortgage owed to the school fund.<sup>488</sup> No further records of William or Polly were found.

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<sup>488</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book S*, page 480.

## Proven Children

Together with the information presented above, public records document the following children of William and Polly (Williams) Harmon:

1. **George Harmon**, b. 1810, d. 12 Sep 1866, at age 56.<sup>489</sup> He married first Martha Simpson on 5 Mar 1835 in Gibson County. He married second Nancy Ann Ellis, widow of John Higginbottom, on 14 May 1865 in Gibson County. After George's death she married James Rice Waters. In the 1870 Census she is again widowed, with children from all three marriages.
2. **Simon Harmon**, b. circa 1810, d. 17 May 1847.<sup>490</sup> He married Lucy Grigsby on 17 Apr 1832 in Gibson County.
3. **Micajah Harmon**, b. about 1815 (1850 Census). He married Mary Ann Spilman on 8 Feb 1838 in Gibson County, Indiana. An 1870 Census record for his family was not located, but in 1880 his widow and three daughters were living in White County, Illinois.
4. **Joel Harmon**, b. 1818 (1850 Census), d. 28 Jun 1889.<sup>491</sup> He married Angelina Broyles on 20 Aug 1846 in Posey County.
5. **Andrew Harmon**, b. 1819 (1850 Census), d. 12 Jul 1884 (unsourced). He married Betsy Duncan on 6 May 1850 in Gibson County.
6. **Ewing Harmon**, b. 1825 (1850 Census), d. after the 1860 Census.
7. **John Harmon**, b. 31 Oct 1827, d. 13 Jan 1888.<sup>492</sup> He married Adaline Land on 6 Feb 1851 in Gibson County.
8. **Elizabeth Harmon**, b. 1827 (1850 Census). She married Jeremiah Spilman on 28 Mar 1850 and likely died around the time of the birth of her son, Samuel Bailey Spilman, who was born Sep 1852: in the 1860 Census Jeremiah and Samuel are living alone. By 1870 Samuel was orphaned and living with a son of Jeremiah's brother, C. C. Spilman.
9. **Bailey Harmon**, b. 1836 (1850 Census), d. 25 Sep 1887.<sup>493</sup> He married first Caroline Land 23 Mar 1853 in Gibson County; he married second Mary Emeline (South) Smith Hoosier on 4 Jul 1872 in White County, Illinois.

A quick analysis confirms that there is a place for these children in pre-1850 Census records, and tells us the age and gender of his children who remain unidentified:

In the 1810 Census for Warren County is "Will<sup>m</sup> Harman," who was living in a household of four:

Males: two under 10 (possibly Simon, possibly George), one 26-44 (William).

Females: one 16-25 (Polly).

<sup>489</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial # 25324038 (headstone photo), Maumee Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>490</sup> *Cemetery Records of Southern Indiana* by Robert E. Turman (undated [1946]), page 18, where it states that the date was 17 May 1842, but since Simon had a son born in 1847, it is thought to be an error in reading the tombstone.

<sup>491</sup> Ancestry.com's *Indiana Deaths, 1882-1920* (2004).

<sup>492</sup> This was obtained from Southern Illinois University IRAD. No book or page number was noted, but a copy is attached to his profile page in Malone & Adams Family Tree, Ancestry.com. It states he was buried at Johnson Graveyard in Enfield, White County, Illinois.

<sup>493</sup> *Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, 1879-1903* (2007), Ancestry.com.

This would seem to be a likely match to the couple that was married in 1803. If Polly was 18 years old when she married then she would be at the upper end of her reported age range, around 25 years old, and if William was around age 21 in 1803 then he would be around 28 years old in 1810.

In the 1820 Census for Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana is the household of “Wm Harmon:”

- Males: six under 10 (Joel, Andrew, Simon, Micajah, George, ?), 1 26-44 (William).
- Females: one 16-25 (too young to be Polly Williams).

In 1830, his household included:

- Males: two aged 5-9 years (John, Ewing), two 10-14 (Andrew, Joel), one 15-19 (Micajah), two 20-29 (Simon, Micajah), one 40-49 (William).
- Females: one aged under 5 years (?), one 30-39 (too young to be Polly Williams).

In 1840, William’s household contained the following individuals:

- Males: one aged 5-9 years (Bailey), three 15-19 (?, Andrew, Ewing), two 20-29 (?, Joel), one 50-59 (William).
- Females: one aged 10-14 years (Elizabeth), one 40-49 (too young to be Polly Williams)

**Table 6.07 - Census Summary for the Household of William Harmon<sup>494</sup>**

ID	Sex	1810	1820	1830	1840	Child
WH1	M	1800-10	1810-20	1800-10		George, b. 1810
WH2	M	1800-10	1810-20	1800-10		Simon, b. circa 1810
WH3	M		1810-20	1810-15		Micajah, b. 1815
WH4	M		1810-20			?
WH5	M		1810-20	1815-20	1810-20	Joel, b. 1818
WH6	M		1810-20	1815-20	1810-20	Andrew, b. 1819
WH7	M			1820-25	1820-25	Ewing, b. 1825
WH8	M				1820-25	?
WH9	F			1820-25	1820-25	Elizabeth, b. 1827
WH10	M			1825-30	1825-30	John, b. 1827
WH11	M				1830-35	Bailey, b. 1836
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2 minors</b>	<b>6 minors</b>	<b>8 minors</b>	<b>7 minors</b>	<b>9 proven minors out of 11</b>

There are potentially some misalignments between Census records in the table above, mostly caused by children born near the beginning or end of a decade who likely had their age either over or under reported. But the above should be a reasonably accurate grouping of records.

<sup>494</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

## Unproven Children

It is quite probable that **WH4** did not survive to adulthood. **WH8** was either a visitor or hired hand.

A Rootsweb Worldconnect Project by Tom Hamm, Junior claims that William Harmon also had sons William, b. 1818 and Calvin, b. 1820. His information came from Janet Skiles Pritchett of Grayville, Illinois.<sup>495</sup> Either could be matches for **WH4**. Since there is only an available match for one additional male, it suggests that one of these individuals was never counted in a Census: he was born and died between Census enumerations. It appears that neither of these sons survived to adulthood, so the point appears to be moot as regards to the reliability of this information.

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<sup>495</sup> Janet was working with a number of Harmon researchers in the early 1990s. She was a second great granddaughter of William and Polly (Williams) Harmon. She died on 7 Aug 2010.



## WINNIE WILLIAMS & SAMPSON JOHNSON

Mrs. Ramsey claims that Winnie was born 10 Jan 1793, which is consistent with the 1790-1800 birth range for Sampson Johnson's wife in the 1820 Census for Posey County. And it pretty much splits the difference in her record for the 1850 Census (b. 1800) and 1860 Census (b. 1781). The 1793 birth year suggests that she married in 1809 or later, despite at least one source claiming that she married in 1803 (at age 10!). Since Simon Williams did not leave Warren County, Kentucky until 1814, she was likely married there, but the marriage record is missing. Sampson's parents had already moved to Indiana Territory, so it makes you wonder if the birth date provided by Mrs. Ramsey was wrong, or whether Sampson had returned to Kentucky to marry her?

On 27 Jul 1803, Sampson Johnson, John Johnson and Arthur Johnson all paid taxes in Warren County, Kentucky while living on 400 acres of second rate land on the waters of Bays Fork that Arthur Johnson had entered.<sup>496</sup>

On 4 Sep 1805 Sampson posted bond and was witness to the marriage of his sister Betsy to John Turner. His father, Arthur Johnson, gave consent and Sampson was a witness to that consent along with W. D. Swearingen.<sup>497</sup> Both John Turner and Sampson Johnson were unable to sign their names to the bond; instead they made their marks.

In 1807 Sampson paid the Warren County poll tax and was taxed for one horse.<sup>498</sup>

On 16 Jan 1809 he was witness to the marriage of Samuel Casey to Nancy Lynch.<sup>499</sup> (Some trees on Ancestry.com show Samuel Casey to be the son of Abner and Nancy Ann [Williams] Casey, though there is no way of knowing if Nancy was somehow related to Sampson's father-in-law or to John Clark Williams, both of whom had lived in the same area.)

On 2 Jun 1809 he paid the poll tax and was taxed for one horse, but was not taxed for any land.<sup>500</sup> Paying taxes on the same day was Allen Jones, who was living on 100 acres of land on the waters of Bays Fork that had been entered by R. Potter (Royal Potter had also entered land that Moses Pruitt had been taxed on and Moses also paid his taxes on 2 Jun, so he and Sampson were likely very close neighbors).<sup>501</sup>

Sampson is not found in the 1810 Census for Warren County, Kentucky.

Sampson (who was b. 1781 and was thus 39 years old at the time) is found in the 1820 Census living in Robb Township, Posey County, Indiana, and his wife is listed as being

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<sup>496</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1803, List 1*, page 17, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>497</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Loose Papers, 1796-1880, H-L*, FHL microfilm #273015.

<sup>498</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1807, List 2*, page 13, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>499</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Loose Papers, 1796-1880, H-L*, FHL microfilm #273015.

<sup>500</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1809, List 1*, page 52, FHL microfilm #8255.

<sup>501</sup> *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1809, List 1*, page 36, FHL microfilm #8255.

between 16 and 25 years of age, which is slightly understated, based upon the birth date provided by Mrs. Ramsey.

Know all men by these presents that we Samuel Casey & Sampson Johnson are here and firmly bound unto his excellency the Governor for the time being and his Successors in office in the penal sum of £ 50 for the true payment of which we bind ourselves Our heirs &c. jointly Severally and firmly by these presents sealed with our Seals and dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 1809. The Conditions be that if there should be no legal Cause to obstruct a Marriage Shortly intended to be solemnized between the said Casey and Nancy Lynch both above the age of 21<sup>st</sup> years then this obligation to be void else remain in full force

Samuel Casey Seal  
Sampson Johnson Seal  
Masks

In the 1830 Census, where Sampson's wife's age range is given as between 30 and 39 years, which is consistent with her being born in 1793.

Sampson Johnson is found in records of Posey County in the 1830s, as a defendant in a suit brought by R. Thompson and in another suit over money brought by T. B. Thompson in 1835.<sup>502</sup> The lack of the record of any sort of estate for Sampson suggests that his estate may have been insolvent when he died.

There is a "Winny" Johnson found in 1850 and 1860 Census records, living in the vicinity of Gibson County, Indiana where Arthur Johnson had lived (prior to his moving to White County, Illinois). However, there is nothing that could directly prove that this person was the wife of Sampson Johnson.

In the 1850 Census living in Robb Township with the family of James and Polly (Johnson) Moutray, there is "Winn" Johnson, who was reported as only being 50 years of age and born in Tennessee.

<sup>502</sup> Posey County, Indiana: A Documented History, 1815-1900, Volume II by Carroll O. and Gloria M. Cox (1987), page 113.

There is record in Posey County, Indiana showing that there was at least one other Winny Johnson living there on 24 Apr 1836, as evidenced by a deed by John & “Winny” Johnson who sold a piece of property that would have been located in Marrs Township.<sup>503</sup> So there remains the remote possibility that the Winnie Johnson living with the Moutray’s might have been the widow of that John Johnson, but probably not, since the deed was for property on the opposite side of the county.

But there are a number of Sons of the American Revolution membership applications based upon the service of Arthur Johnson for the descendants of Sampson’s son, Zachariah.<sup>504</sup> They variously state that Sampson died in 1816, 1825 or 1826, though this is obviously incorrect, as we’ve seen at least three records showing that he was alive after that date, including at least one record for 1835. In one of these applications, Winnie is said to have lived until 1862, which would be consistent with the last known record of her (the 1860 Census).

It is important to remember that the National Society for the Sons of the American Revolution is only concerned with proof of the male lineage. Thus the facts attributed to Winnie would have been inconsequential to approving the application. This is born out by the earliest such SAR application, that of Fred W. Johnson b. 1875, son of William Ludrick and Kate (Highman) Johnson. William was born in 1848 and his parents, Zachariah and Catherine (Staley) Johnson died in 1862 and 1894, respectively. Interestingly, in 1921 Fred did not know the first name of Sampson’s wife, even though she would have been a contemporary of his parents.

Another application, submitted later that year by Albert Edward Heckmann, also failed to note her first name. But when his brother, Louis Frederick Heckman, submitted an application five years later, he had figured it out and listed her as Winnie Williams. His grandson submitted the last of the four applications accessible in Ancestry.com’s *Sons of the American Revolution membership applications, 1889-1970* (2011).

Since, in 1850 and 1860, Winnie was living with James and Polly Moutray, it is worth learning more about them. On 3 Jan 1831 there is record in Posey County of their marriage. James Moutray would seem to be the son of James Moutray, Senior, who in 1814 patented 160 acres in the NW ¼ of Section 8, T4S, R12W. The property abutted that of Arthur L. Johnson, son of Arthur and Lucy (Harmon) Johnson. So with Winnie living with them in 1850 and 1860, it is reasonable to presume that Polly (Johnson) Moutray is Winnie’s daughter, and that despite flawed Census records she was also the mother of Zachariah Johnson.

In the 1860 Census Winnie is listed as being a part of James Moutray’s family, but she is living in a separate dwelling, apart from James’ wife and children. Living with her at the time were:

- Jackson Johnson, b. 1825 in North Carolina.

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<sup>503</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G*, page 622.

<sup>504</sup> Application numbers 33594, 35509, 42606 and 76451, the earliest of which was completed in 1921.

- Marthena Johnson, b. 1827 in Indiana.
- John S. Johnson, b. 1832 in Indiana.

While it is possible that these were all children of Winnie's, their absence from Winnie's 1850 Census record suggests that is not the case. None of these individuals are found in subsequent Census records, suggesting that perhaps the surname was incorrectly recorded in the 1860 Census. Jackson and Marthena could have been a married couple, especially since Jackson was not born in Indiana, at a time when Sampson and Winnie are known to have been in Indiana. There simply is no means of determining if any of these people were Winnie's children, though her 1830 Census does contain family members that are a potential match for both Jackson and Marthena.

## Proven Children

Thus there would seem to be two proven descendants of Sampson Johnson:

1. **Polly Johnson**, b. 23 Feb 1812, d. 21 Nov 1881.<sup>505</sup> She married James Moutray on 4 Jan 1831 in Posey County, Indiana.
2. **Zachariah Johnson**, b. 9 Nov 1821, d. 3 Jul 1862.<sup>506</sup> He married Catherine Staley on 7 Sep 1844 in Posey County, Indiana.

Whether or not there were other children of Sampson's that went on to have families of their own is an open question, as an 1840 Census record *has not* been located for either Sampson or Winnie Johnson. Their children would have started marrying after 1830, but there is no shortage of Johnson weddings to sort through to attempt to figure out who may have been their children.

In the 1820 Census, his household contained six children:

- Males: two under age 10 (?, ?), one 26-44 (Sampson).
- Females: four under age 10 (Polly, ?, ?, ?), one 16-25 (Winnie?).

In the 1830 Census, Sampson household contained eleven children, including children that match that age and gender of Polly and Zachariah:

- Males: two aged 5-9 (Zachariah, ?), one 10-14 (?), one 15-19 (?), one 40-49 (Sampson).
- Females: one under age 5, two 10-14 (Polly, ?), one 15-19 (?), one 30-39 (Winnie?).

**Table 6.08 - Census Summary for the Household of Sampson Johnson<sup>507</sup>**

ID	Sex	1820	1830	1840	Child
SJ1	M	1810-1820	1810-1815		?
SJ2	F	1810-1820	1810-1815		Polly, b. 1812
SJ3	M	1810-1820	1815-1820		?
SJ4	F	1810-1820	1815-1820		?
SJ5	F	1810-1820	1815-1820		?
SJ6	F	1810-1820			?
SJ7	M		1820-1825		Zachariah, b. 1821
SJ8	M		1820-1825		?
SJ9	F		1825-1830		?
SJ*	Plus other possible children after 1830				
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6 minors</b>	<b>8 minors</b>		<b>2 proven minors out of 9</b>

<sup>505</sup> Find A Grave, memorial #101287746 (headstone photo), Saulmon Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

<sup>506</sup> Sons of the American Revolution membership applications 33594, 35509, 42606 and 76451.

<sup>507</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.



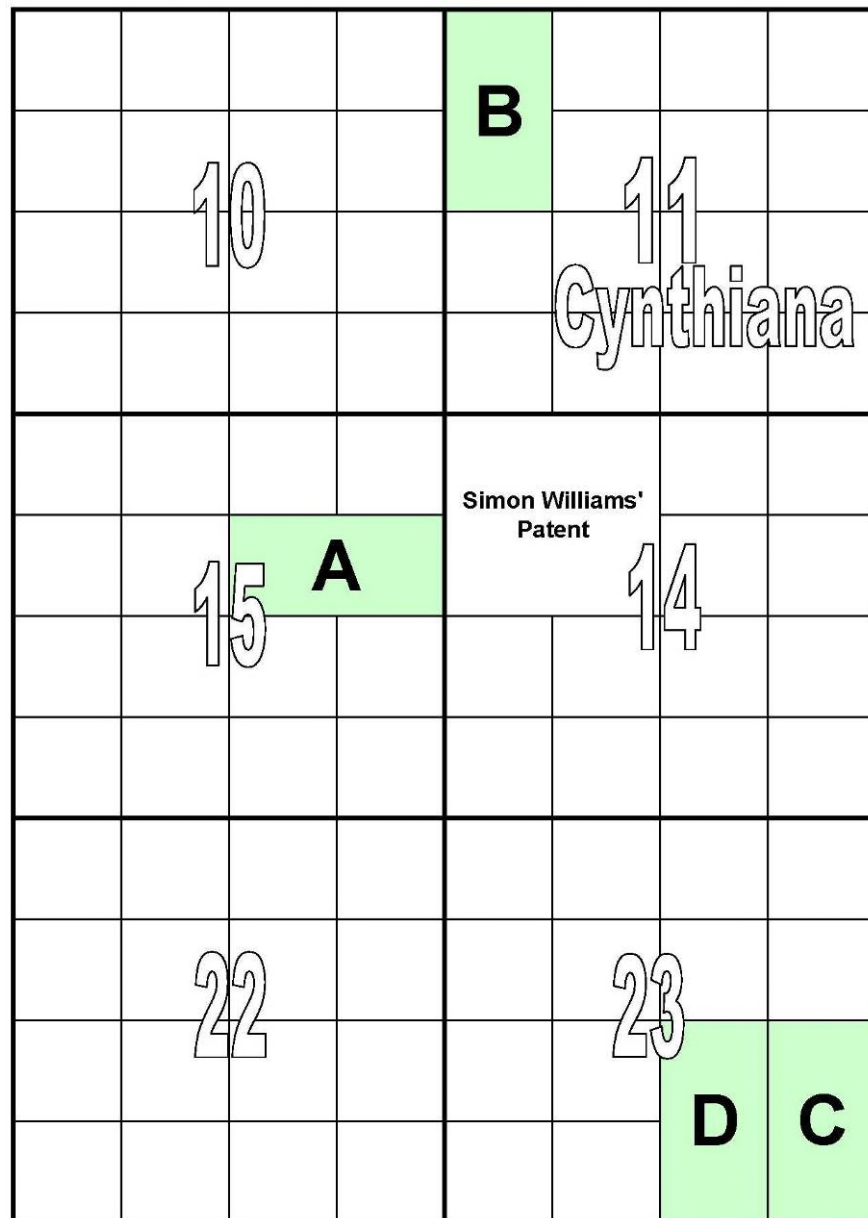
## Unproven Children

There are 1830 Census records that match two individuals in Winnie's 1860 household. **SJ8** would seem to be a match for Jackson Johnson and **SJ9** would seem to be a match for Marthena Johnson, but sufficient doubt exists about their whereabouts in 1850 that this cannot be proven. John S. Johnson is a possible candidate for **SJ\***, but there is far from sufficient information to make that connection. However, if John was Sampson's son, his birth suggests that Sampson was still alive around the time that he was born.

No clear evidence suggests the identities of **SJ1**, **SJ3**, **SJ4** or **SJ5**. **SJ6** almost certainly did not survive childhood.

## WILLIAM WILLIAMS & MARTHA ALLEN

Bond for the marriage of Martha Allen and William Williams was posted in Warren County, Kentucky on 1 Sep 1812 by Simon Williams. A week earlier, on 26 Aug 1810, Lee Allen provided written consent of his daughter's marriage.<sup>508</sup>



*Parcel map of properties in Smith Township owned by William and Martha (Allen) Williams.*

The map above shows the properties owned by William Williams and their proximity to Simon Williams' patent. The narrative that follows describes the purchase and sale of most of these properties.

<sup>508</sup> Western Kentucky University's Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records*, MSS 230, Box 4, Folder 7, Items 23-2 and 23-3.

On 28 Oct 1823, William Williams bought the S ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 15, T4S, R12W (80 acres) from Lewis & Hannah Duncan and Benjamin & Lidia Holcomb (Property A). The deed was witnessed by Clement Whiting and John Williams (the latter signed with an X).<sup>509</sup> His neighbors to the east were John Williams and Simon Williams, and his neighbors to the west were George and Bennet Williams. He and Martha later sold 51 acres of this property to Bennet Williams for \$200 on 10 Aug 1832, as witnessed by J. C. Doom and Jas. E. Clarke, leaving them with about 29 acres.<sup>510</sup> William then purchased the W ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 11, T4S, R12W (80 acres) from Elisha & Mary Kimball for \$265 on 11 Oct 1832.<sup>511</sup> Witnesses were Lewis & Bennet Williams (Property B).

On 30 Oct 1832, William and Martha Williams sold 29 acres of land in the NE ¼ of Section 15, T4S, R12W to Ira Phar Grainger of Vanderburgh County for \$42 (the remainder of Property A). The deed was witnessed by Clement Whiting and John Baker.<sup>512</sup>

On 27 Dec 1834, William Williams mortgaged the property that he had acquired from Elisha and Mary Kimball in 1832 (Property B) to Ebenezer Phillips, commissioner of Posey County school lands for \$100, payable within three years with an interest rate of ten percent per annum.<sup>513</sup> William was unable to sign his name, and instead made his mark. The School District apparently failed to complete the purchase: on 13 Feb 1836, William and Martha Williams sold the W ½ NW ¼ of Section 11, T4S, R12W to Thomas Grey of Hamilton County, Ohio for \$400. The deed was witnessed by John Stewart and William Pollard.<sup>514</sup>

On 20 Feb 1836, William Williams made a land entry for 80 acres located in the E ½ SE ¼ of Section 23, T4S, R12W (Property C). He received the patent to the land on 1 Aug 1837. A William Williams also received a patent on the same day for land located in the W ½ NW ¼ of Section 36, T5S, R13W, which would have been located about eight or nine miles to the southwest of the Section 23 property.

On page 52 of *Posey County, Indiana, Information from Newspaper Files in the New Harmony Library* by Carroll O. and Gloria Cox (typescript, no date)<sup>515</sup> is found the following entry (almost certainly from a newspaper entitled *The Indiana Statesman*, which was published from 1842 to 1846):

***“February 8, 1845 – Clement Whiting and William Pollard vs. Martha Williams and her heirs – Emry [sic] Williams, Eben Williams, William and Mary Williams Smiley, Joseph and Eliza Williams Endicott, Chesterfield and Matilda [sic] Williams Spilman, and Elizabeth Pagans.***

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<sup>509</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book C*, page 474.

<sup>510</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book F*, page 48.

<sup>511</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book F*, page 155.

<sup>512</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book F*, page 102.

<sup>513</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G*, page 90.

<sup>514</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book H*, pages 292 and 293.

<sup>515</sup> Copy found at Archives.org. Pages are hand numbered, with original typewritten numbers scratched out. It appears the pages were out of order and then bound. It appears the original page number was 37.

(William Pollard was a doctor in Cynthiana, so this may have been related to a suit over a bill for William's treatment prior to his death. It appears that the source document was difficult to read, as there are some errors in the names of Martha's heirs, as will be discussed as we proceed.)

Several individuals named above are found living together in the 1850 Census. Martha and three of her children are found in the household of her daughter, Eliza Ann, and son-in-law, Joseph Endicott (whom Eliza had married on 21 Dec 1843 in Posey County).<sup>516</sup> The other children are Emory (not Emry), William and Enoch (not Eben).

We learn of William's daughter Mahala (not Matilda) in the biography of her son, William S. Spilman, which is found on pages 55 & 56 of *The pictorial story of America, Part III: Gibson County* by Elia W. Peattie (1895). The pertinent passage is as follows:

*"WILLIAM S. SPILLMAN, who has been an important factor in the political and business life of Gibson County, and is an esteemed resident of Princeton, was born in Vanderburgh County, Indiana, September 4, 1838, a son of **Chesterfield C. and Mahala (Williams) Spilman**... The mother of our subject was born in Posey County, Indiana in 1818, and died in Illinois, in 1845. She was a daughter of **William Williams**, a native of Tennessee, and a pioneer settler of Posey County."*

(The Spilman family was known to have spread out from where they originally settled in eastern Montgomery Township to Johnson Township in Gibson County and to the northwest corner of Hart Township in Warrick County.)<sup>517</sup>

Mahala's marriage took place on 6 Nov 1836 in Posey County.<sup>518</sup> Of the remaining children described in the 1845 lawsuit, Mary Williams married William H. Smiley on 20 Jul 1835 in Posey County,<sup>519</sup> and Elizabeth Williams married John Pagan on 13 Jan 1837 in Vanderburgh County (she was widowed at the time of the lawsuit and later married Jesse Henson on 27 Jun 1845 in Posey County).<sup>520,521</sup>

On 19 Feb 1852, Clement and Sarah Whiting, together with Martha Williams (widow of William Williams) sold to their neighbor, William Bailey Smith, the W ½ SE ¼ of Section 23, T4S, R12W for \$400 (Property D).<sup>522</sup> This property had been patented by Zacheus T. Smith (half brother of William Bailey Smith) on 1 Sep 1838, and it is unclear

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<sup>516</sup> Brides page 35 of *Posey County, Indiana Marriage Records: Book 2, 1832-1846* by Ruth M. Slevin (typescript, undated).

<sup>517</sup> *The First Two Malone Families to Settle in Gibson County, Indiana Territory* by Steve Malone (2012), Addendum B.

<sup>518</sup> Brides page 35 of *Posey County, Indiana Marriage Records: Book 2, 1832-1846* by Ruth M. Slevin (undated).

<sup>519</sup> Ibid. Brides page 35.

<sup>520</sup> Vanderburgh County Marriage Index, Willard Library, Evansville, Indiana (online database, accessed 2014); Vol. 1, page 26.

<sup>521</sup> Brides page 26 of *Posey County, Indiana Marriage Records: Book 2, 1832-1846* by Ruth M. Slevin (typescript, undated).

<sup>522</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book S*, pages 13 and 14.

how Martha, whose husband had patented the adjoining 80 acres, came to have an interest in this property. While siblings of the Smith brothers married into the families of Lewis and George WilliamsWilliams, it doesn't appear that any of them married into William Williams' family.<sup>523</sup>

In the 1860 Census, Martha was living in New Harmony with the family of her son, Emory. Also living with them was her son Enoch.

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<sup>523</sup> *General Land Office Records*, Accession # IN2040\_.388.



## Proven Children

Thus, from the preceding facts, there are the following proven children of Martha and William:

1. **Mary “Polly” Williams**, b. about 1814 (1850 Census). She married William H. Smiley on 20 Jul 1835 in Posey County. A William Smiley married Mary Harris on 4 Oct 1849 in Posey County, so Polly may have died by then.
2. **Elizabeth Williams**, b. about 1816 (1850 Census), d. unknown. She married first John Pagan on 13 Jan 1837 in Vanderburgh County. She married second Jesse Henson on 27 Jun 1845 in Posey County.
3. **Mahala Williams**, b. 1818, d. 1845 (probably 1854).<sup>524</sup> She married Chesterfield C. Spilman on 6 Nov 1836.
4. **Eliza Ann Williams**, b. about 1827 (1850 Census). She married first Joseph C. Endicott in Posey County on 21 Dec 1843, and second Henry Harrison Holloman on 3 Dec 1868 in Edwards County, Illinois. She likely died around 1880, as Henry married Lourinda around 1881 (per the 1900 Census).
5. **Emory Williams**, b. about 1832 (1850 Census). He married Margaret Oglesby in Posey County on 24 Dec 1851. He likely died by 1870, as in the 1870 Census his wife and daughter Eliza Ann was living with his sister Elizabeth in Poseyville.
6. **William Williams**, b. about 1834 (1850 Census).
7. **Enoch Williams**, b. 1838 (1850 Census), d. 1 Nov 1862.<sup>525</sup> His tombstone is found on the former Simon Williams farm.

The analysis that follows compares Williams’ known children against available Census records in an effort to determine whether there are additional, unknown children of his.

A record for William Williams is not found in 1820 Census. Since William and Martha were married in 1812, the 1830 Census should give a complete accounting of any children that survived to adulthood.

In Smith Township his 1830 household consisted of:

- Males: one aged 15-19 (?), one 30-39 (William).
- Females: two aged under 5 (Eliza Ann, ?), one 5-9 (Elizabeth), one 10-14 (Mahala), one 15-19 (Mary Ann), one 30-39 (Martha).

In 1840 William was living in Smith Township and his household consisted of the following individuals:

- Males: three under age 5 (Enoch, Emery, William), one 20-29 (?), one 40-49 (William).
- Females: one under age 5 (?), one 10-14 (Eliza Ann), one 15-19 (Elizabeth), two 20-29 (?, ?), one 40-49 (Martha).

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<sup>524</sup> *The pictorial story of America, Part III: Gibson County* by Elia W. (1895), page 55. However, Mahala appears with her family in the 1850 Census for Hart Township, Warrick County, Indiana. It seems likely that the last two digits of her year of death were transposed.

<sup>525</sup> *U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865* (2013), Ancestry.com.

**Table 6.09: Census Summary for the Household of William Williams<sup>526</sup>**

ID	Sex	1820	1830	1840	Child
WW1	M		1810-1815		?
WW2	F		1810-1815	1810-1820	Mary Ann, b. 1814
WW3	F		1815-1820	1810-1820	Elizabeth, b. 1816
WW4	F		1820-1825	1820-1825	Mahala, b. 1818.
WW5	F		1825-1830		?
WW6	F		1825-1830	1825-1830	Eliza Ann, b. 1827
WW7	M			1835-1840	Emory, b. 1832
WW8	M			1835-1840	William, b. 1834
WW9	M			1835-1840	Enoch, b. 1838
WW10	F			1835-1840	?
<b>Totals</b>		<b>? minors</b>	<b>6 minors</b>	<b>8 minors</b>	<b>7 proven minors out of 10</b>

### Unproven Children

**WW1** is thought by many people to have been William Williams, the husband of 1) Holland Anderson and 2) Irena Reeder. At least an equal number claim that particular William Williams to be the son of Urbane Williams. It seems the latter is more plausible in light of our William Williams having a son named William who was born about 1834. **WW1** likely died before his father and left no heirs.

Children **WW5** and **WW10** almost certainly died young, though **WW10** may not be related to William's family. Since there is one male and two females aged between 20 and 29 in William's 1840 household, this may be his daughter Elizabeth (Williams) Pagan and her husband (a possible match for **WW1**), who are not found in local 1840 Census records. **WW10** may have been their child.

<sup>526</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

## JOHN WILLIAMS & ELIZABETH ROOK

As noted earlier, John Williams and Elizabeth Rook were married on 8 Nov 1818 in Posey County by Elder James Martin. In Chapter 2 the deeds were discussed that make it clear that he had at one time owned two thirds of Simon Williams' original patent, which infers that he and Enoch Williams (who had received the other 1/3 of the property) were Simon's sons.

*Posey County, Indiana, Information from Newspaper Files in the New Harmony Library* by Carroll O. and Gloria Cox (typescript, no date)<sup>527</sup> gives the following unsourced account of the widow Margaret Rook and her neighbors, and thus is very helpful in determining that the Census records that follow relate to the correct John Williams:

*“Margaret Rook entered May 1814, the S.E. ¼ of Section 28 Harmony Township. This woman was a widow her husband having been killed in Indiana by lightening [sic]. She later married Joseph Price who died 1843 in his 96<sup>th</sup> year. The N. E. ¼ of section 28 entered July 7, 1814 by Ignatious Levitt who lived and died on it. It is now owned and occupied by Issac [sic] Anderson and heirs of Joseph Cox. The N.W. ¼ of section 27 was entered by William Rogers who married a daughter of Margaret Rooks. Now owned by Elijah Davis and Luther Robinson. Shadrack Stallings entered the S. W. ¼ of section 27 in Harmony Township while living in Logan County, Kentucky the land is now owned by Enoch Hancock.”*

While the information in the above account is unsourced, most of the property information is confirmed by General Land Office patents.

John's household is not found in the 1820 Census, just as the households of Simon, Bennet and William Williams are also missing from Census records at that time.

As noted earlier, in 1821 John bought the southern 1/3 of Simon's patent, and Joseph Price was one of the witnesses.<sup>528</sup>

On 28 Oct 1823, a John Williams was the witness to a deed from Lewis and Hannah Duncan and Benjamin and Lidia Holcomb to William and Martha (Allen) Williams for property described as the S ½ NE ¼ of Section 15, T4S, R12W. This property abutted John's 1821 property along his western property line.<sup>529</sup>

On 6 Oct 1829 John Williams was given 40 acres of land by Joseph and Margaret (?) Rook Price “for and in consideration of the natural love and affection they bear toward the said John Williams, he being son-in-law to the said Joseph and Margaret Price.” The land was described as “a certain tract lot or parcel of land situated in Posey County State [of Indiana] it being part of the South East quarter of section twenty eight in township

<sup>527</sup> Page numbers on this copy have been scratched out. It appears the original page number was 17, but 27 has been handwritten beside the scratched out page number.

<sup>528</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book C*, page 308.

<sup>529</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book C*, page 474.

four south, Range thirteen west of the lands directed to be sold at Vincennes and pattened [sic] by Margaret Rook...” Witnesses were William Williams and Elisha Stallings.<sup>530</sup>

In 1830, John’s family was found living in Harmony Township. Shadrack Stallings was a nearby neighbor.

In 1834, John bought the NE 1/3 of Simon’s patent, while Enoch Williams had bought the NW 1/3 about two weeks earlier. And in 1839 John and Elizabeth sold that property, and their original 1/3 of Simon’s patent that they acquired in 1821, in separate transactions to Enoch Williams and Charles Whiting (almost certainly this was Charles “Little” or “Bricklayer” Whiting, who at the time was the husband of Polly Lowe – Lydia Lowe was Enoch’s wife, thus he was Enoch’s brother-in-law).<sup>531</sup>

In the 1840 Census, John and Elizabeth are found in Harmony Township in a household of twelve, with five boys and five girls. Listed just above John in the 1840 Census is William Rogers, who earlier was said to have owned an adjoining property. It would certainly appear that at that time John and Elizabeth were living in the neighborhood of the property that they had received from his in-laws. Neither Joseph Price nor his wife is found in the 1840 Census.

On 7 Jan 1841, John Williams sold the property that he had been gifted by his in-laws to his daughter Matilda Williams for \$500, the land for which was described as follows:<sup>532</sup>

*“...a certain lot or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Posey, and of Id. known and designated by being a parte [sic] of south east quarter of Section twenty eight in Township four south of Range thirteen west bounded as follows: beginning at the North East corner of section quarter thence west to a Shugar [sic] tree and marked for pints(?)<sup>533</sup> two shugar trees, two white oaks and black oaks thence south to the main road to two shugar trees then continuing to white oaks a little east of the Grave Yard thence westward a large white oak on the side of the road the same course continued until it intersects the south section lian [sic] then east to the southeast corner and thence to the beginning to contain forty acres more or less...”*

The property described above is approximated in the 1900 map of property owners shown below.<sup>534</sup> The quarter section outlined by a bold line was patented by the widow Margaret Rook. The crosshatched area is approximately the property conveyed to Matilda Williams. The road to the north of the property is Highway 68, to the south is the Old Evansville Road, and transecting the property is Stillwell Road. The cemetery noted in the deed (which is thought to be the cemetery described as Carnahan Cemetery

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<sup>530</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book E, page 228.

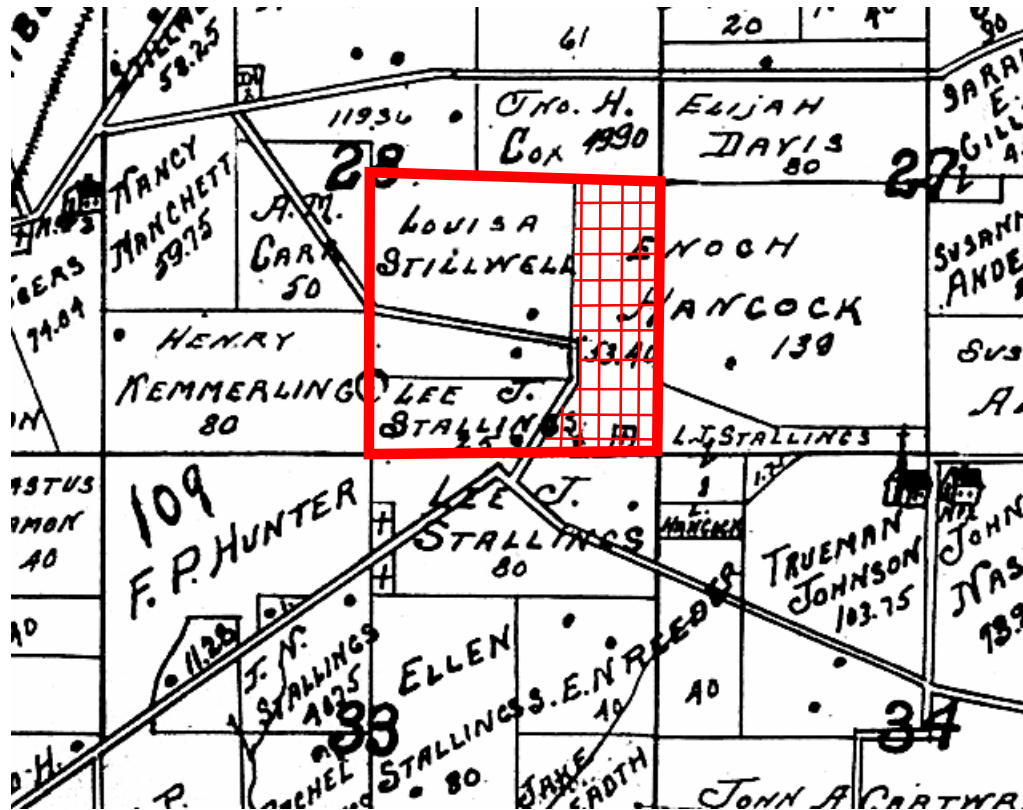
<sup>531</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book I, page 189 and 190, respectively.

<sup>532</sup> Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book K, page 521.

<sup>533</sup> A subsequent deed states “marked for pointers.”

<sup>534</sup> Illustrated Atlas of Posey County, Indiana by Keller and Fuller (1900), page 37.

in a book by Carroll O. Cox) would be located near the point where Stillwell Road turns due south.



Map showing the property patented by the widow Margaret Rook, with the crosshatched portion indicating the approximate portion conveyed to Matilda Williams in 1841.

Joseph Price is found in an 1842 tax list, where he paid the poll tax and was taxed for 120 acres located in Section 28, T4S, R13W (the same section where John Williams had been gifted property). Matilda Williams is found on the tax list, having paid taxes on 40 acres of land that was also located in Section 28, T4S, R13W (she wasn't required to pay the poll tax), which was almost certainly the property highlighted in the map above. John Williams is shown having only paid the poll tax (and thus there is no indication of what property he was living on at that time). He likely was living with either his daughter or his wife's parents.<sup>535</sup>

A record of the disposition of Joseph Price's estate was not found in the will, probate or land records of Posey County. However, record of his grave and that of his wife were recorded by Carroll O. Cox as being in Carnahan Cemetery [sic: Callahan Cemetery].<sup>536</sup>

<sup>535</sup> *Indiana Tax Lists, Volume 2* by Jean Eaglesfield Darlington (1990), Harmony Township, pages 9, 12 and 13 (no printed page numbers found in this version).

<sup>536</sup> *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carroll O. Cox (1979), page 141.



**“PRICE**

*Joseph, born in Huntington [sic: Hunterdon] Co. New Jersey,  
Feb. 7 1758*

*Feb. 15, 1843*

*Margarett, his wife, died,  
Aged 68 yrs.”*

*March 1, 1842*

On 13 Oct 1848, the same property that was sold to Matilda Williams was sold back to John Williams by James and Matilda (Williams) Emmerson for \$5 and “certain considerations.” The deed provided a clearer legal description of the property, as it adds distances measured in rods and links between the various trees described in the first deed. The deed also states the relationship between the parties of the deed: “the said Matilda Emmerson (daughter of the said John Williams).”<sup>537</sup> It appears that she and her husband moved to Williamson County, Illinois a short time later.

In the 1850 Census, John and Elizabeth are still found in Harmony Township, now with a household of nine that includes the following individuals: Pamela Williams, William H. Williams, Mitty Anne Williams, Felix Williams, Nathaniel Williams, Charlotte Williams and John Williams. A nearby neighbor in the 1850 Census was Shadrack Stallings, age 70, so again, John appears to have been living in the vicinity of his Harmony Township property.

On 18 Feb 1851, John and Elizabeth Williams sell their 40 acres to Thomas M. Cox for \$306.<sup>538</sup> The metes and bounds description of the property remained the same, but was approximated as 50 acres, more or less, roughly ten acres more than had been calculated when they had originally received the property from Elizabeth’s mother and stepfather.

No further records of John or Elizabeth were found. Of their children, later records were found in Posey County only for their sons William and Felix. Their daughter Matilda apparently died within a few years of moving to Williamson County, Illinois.

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<sup>537</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book P, page 517.*

<sup>538</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book R, page 17.*

## Proven Children

Available public records show the following children of John and Elizabeth:

1. **Matilda Williams**, b. 1823 (1850 Census), d. about 1853 in Williamson County, Illinois. She married James Emmerson on 20 Nov 1845 in Posey County, Indiana.
2. **Pamelia Williams**, b. about 1825 (1850 Census).  
(NOTE: For the Permeley Williams who married Romelia B. Price, see *Volume 2, Addendum 4*; there is direct evidence that she was the daughter of John Clark and Ritter [Johnson] Williams.)
3. **William Henry Williams**, b. 1829 (1850 Census). He married Mary Ellen Cox on 17 Sep 1851 in Posey County, Indiana.
4. **Mitty Anne Williams**, b. 1830 (1850 Census).  
(NOTE: This is not the wife of John Hershel Waller, whose wife was Mydyan Williams, b. 1830; she was the daughter of an unrelated Williams line, that of Daniel Williams.)
5. **Felix Williams**, b. 1832 (1850 Census). Married first Elizabeth Culley, date unknown.<sup>539</sup> Married second Margaret Culley on 1 Nov 1859 in Posey County, Indiana.
6. **Nathaniel Williams**, b. 1835 (1850 Census).
7. **Charlotte Williams**, b. 1837 (1850 Census).
8. **John Williams**, b. 1839 (1850 Census).

The 1830 Census for Harmony Township lists the following individuals in John's household:

- Males: one under age 5 (William H.), one aged 5-9 (?), one aged 30-39 (John).
- Females: two under age 5 (Mitty Anne, ?), one age 5-9 (?), two aged 10-14 (?), and one aged 20-29 (Elizabeth).

The 1840 Census for Harmony Township lists the following individuals in John's household:

- Males: one under age 5 (John), two aged 5-9 (Nathaniel, Felix), one aged 10-14 (William H.), one aged 15-19 (?), one aged 40-49 (John).
- Females: one under age 5 (Charlotte), one aged 5-9 (Mitty Anne), two aged 15-19 (Pamelia, ?), one aged 20-29 (?), and one aged 30-39 (Elizabeth).

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<sup>539</sup> Ancestry.com's *Indiana, Select Marriages, 1780-1992* (2014). Shows Joel Williams as their child. Joel was born in 1857.

**Table 6.10: Census Summary for the Household of John Williams<sup>540</sup>**

ID	Sex	1820	1830	1840	Child
JW1	F		1815-1820	1810-1820	?
JW2	F		1815-1820		?
JW3	M		1820-1825	1820-1825	?
JW4	F		1820-1825	1820-1825	Matilda, b. ca. 1823
JW5	F		1825-1830	1820-1825	Pamelia, b. 1825
JW6	M		1825-1830	1825-1830	William H., b. 1829
JW7	F		1825-1830	1830-1835	Mitty Anne, b. 1830
JW8	M			1830-1835	Felix, b. 1832
JW9	M			1835-1840	Nathaniel, b. 1835
JW10	F			1835-1840	Charlotte, b. 1837
JW11	M			1835-1840	John, b. 1839
<b>Totals</b>		<b>? minors</b>	<b>7 minors</b>	<b>10 minors</b>	<b>8 proven minors out of 11</b>

So it would seem that John and Elizabeth had three children that likely were married before the 1850 Census (JW1-JW3), and one daughter (JW4) that appears to have died in childhood. With the exception of Matilda, Felix and William, marriage and post-1850 Census records could not be located for the above individuals. It could well be that John Williams has few, if any, living descendants, or at least few that are aware that their ancestors were his children.

### Unproven Children

Thus far, there are no clues to the identities of any of the unidentified children of John and Elizabeth (Rook) Williams (JW1, JW2 and JW3); though it appears that JW2 probably did not survive childhood.

<sup>540</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

## ENOCH WILLIAMS & LYDIA LOWE

Enoch married Lydia Lowe on 28 Jan 1819 in Posey County. As noted earlier, perhaps the strongest indirect evidence connecting Enoch Williams as a son of Simon is the fact that he purchased 1/3 of Simon's original patent in Section 14, T4S, R12W from him in 1834 (which contained the family cemetery) for \$150.<sup>541</sup>

Enoch does not show up in General Land Office records as having patented any land in Posey County. This probably explains why he is found in the 1820 Census listed next to George Williams, which suggests that he was living on George's property at the time. Subsequent land records show him to have become the owner of parts of the original patents of George, Bennet and Simon Williams.



On 19 Sep 1836, Ira Phar and Phebe Lane Grainger of Vanderburgh County sold to Enoch Williams the 29 acres that William Williams had sold to them in 1832, and which abutted the southwestern edge of the property that he received from Simon Williams in 1834.<sup>542</sup>

On 28 Jan 1839 Enoch purchased the NE 1/3 of his father's patent from his brother John, paying \$350, and thus he owned the entire northern two thirds of Simon's farm (about 107 acres).<sup>543</sup>

On 2 Mar 1840 Enoch purchased the NE ¼ NW ¼ of Sec 23 from Thomas Alcorn, which Thomas had patented in 1837.<sup>544</sup> This was located about a mile south of his Section 14 properties.

On 21 Aug 1840 Enoch Williams was a subscribing witness to the last will and testament of his neighbor Herndon Meadows, and his brother-in-law Joseph Cater was appointed as the administrator of the estate.<sup>545</sup> Two of Herndon's daughters – Nancy and Mary – married sons of Lewis Williams and Enoch Williams, respectively.

In 1850 Lydia was living in Smith Township with children Malinda, Lucinda and John. Also living with them was the family of her brother-in-law, Lewis Williams.

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<sup>541</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G*, page 82.

<sup>542</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book H*, pages 96 and 97.

<sup>543</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book I*, page 189.

<sup>544</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book K*, page 32.

<sup>545</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Wills, Book B*, page 32.

Several deeds involving Enoch's 1834, 1836, 1839 and 1840 property acquisitions identify Enoch's several children as his heirs. The first was on 12 Sep 1849, when Greenberry and Margaret D. (Downey) Williams, James R. and Euphemia Ann (Benson) Williams, heirs of Enoch Williams, sold their interest in Enoch's 176 acres of land holdings to Harrison Williams for \$275.<sup>546</sup>

The second was on 28 Dec 1852, when William H. and Mary (Meadows) Williams and George and Matilda (Williams) Eaton, heirs at law of Enoch Williams, sold to Harrison Williams for \$235 their interest in Enoch's property.<sup>547</sup>

The third was a deed dated 27 Dec 1853 from Malinda Jane Williams, as heir of Enoch Williams, to Harrison Williams for \$110.<sup>548</sup>

And finally, on 17 Aug 1863, Harrison Williams purchased for \$460 the remaining interest in the properties of his father's estate from his siblings, who were described in the deed as "heirs at law of Enoch Williams" (text in square brackets has been added by the author):<sup>549</sup>

1. William H. and Margaret E. [(McMunn) Barton] Williams;
2. George W. and Matilda [Williams] Eaton;
3. James R. and Euphemia A. [Benson] Williams; and
4. Greenberry and Margaret D. [Downey] Williams of Jefferson County, Iowa.

Why these four individuals needed to sign this final deed, after having deeded their interest in the property to Harrison several years earlier is not known. However, there is no record of Enoch's children Lucinda, Malinda or John deeding over their share of the property, and they all outlived Harrison. Though in part, it may have had something to do with the families of Malinda and John moving to Pike County, Indiana by the 1860 Census (it is possible that the conveyance of their interest took place in Pike County). Just a year and a half later, Harrison ended up selling his majority interest in the property to his sister and brother-in-law, Lucinda (Williams) and Alfred McReynolds (so it seems they may never have relinquished their interest in the property).<sup>550</sup>

On page 310 of *History of Posey County, Indiana* by John C. Leffel (1913) we find Enoch Williams mentioned in the biography of his grandson, John H. Williams. The relevant portion of the biography is provided below:

***"JOHN H. WILLIAMS, farmer and stock raiser, of Cynthiana. Ind., was born November 6, 1856, son of William H. and Mary (Meadows) Williams. William H. was the son of Enoch Williams, who married Miss Lowe and was the first of***

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<sup>546</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book T*, pages 154 and 155.

<sup>547</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book T*, pages 151 and 152.

<sup>548</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book V*, page 30.

<sup>549</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book Z*, page 690.

<sup>550</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book 2*, page 244.



*the family to come to Posey county, having removed to this section from South Carolina. The country was in a wild condition at that time and the woods were still full of Indians and wild animals. They located in Smith, Posey, and here **William H.** was born in 1820, and was reared in the woods, where he helped clear the ground. He attended the schools of those times and later engaged in farming and stock raising, continuing in this business until his death in 1886. His wife preceded him in death, passing away in 1861."*

The phrase stating that Enoch "was the first of the family to come to Posey County" likely referred to him being the first of the grandson's family, not Simon's. Thus far, the earliest evidence of Enoch living in Indiana is his marriage to Lydia in 1819. With two brothers who were 10+ years his senior arriving in 1814, it is very doubtful that Enoch would have arrived before them.

Enoch's son, William H. Williams, is also mentioned in Goodspeed's *History of Posey County, Indiana* (1886), where it states:

*"He is a son of **Enoch** and **Lydia (Lowe) Williams** and was born in 1820. His parents were natives of Tennessee and Maryland, respectively. They were married in Posey County, Ind., in 1819. The father was a farmer and owned 200 acres of good land. His death occurred in 1843 and the mother's in 1871."*

Enoch's broken headstone is found in Simon Williams Family Cemetery, where it states he died on 2 Sep 1843, "aged about 49 yrs" (so he was born around 1794). Lydia's headstone was found under a few inches of soil at the cemetery, and was also broken: no dates were found on the extant remnant.

An 1860 Census record has not been located for Lydia.

In the 1870 Census for Smith Township, Lydia is found living in the household of her daughter and son-in-law, Lucinda and Alfred McReynolds, who in 1865 had become the owners of the portion of Enoch's property that contained the family cemetery.<sup>551</sup>



<sup>551</sup> *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book 15, Page 266.*

## Proven Children

Thus the proven children of Lydia and Enoch include:

1. **William H. Williams**, b. 13 Jan 1820, d. 23 Mar 1886.<sup>552</sup> He married first Mary Meadows in Posey County on 26 Mar 1841. Second, on 4 Dec 1862 in Posey County he married the widow Margaret (McMunn) Barton.
2. **James Redman Willams**, b. 14 Jun 1821, d. 6 Jan 1888.<sup>553</sup> Married first Eliza A. Gray on 2 Sep 1841 in Posey County. He married second Euphemia Ann Benson, 28 May 1848 in Posey County.
3. **Greenberry Williams**, b. 2 Feb 1823, d. 12 Sep 1906.<sup>554</sup> He married Margaret Downey on 14 Mar 1847 in Posey County. By the 1850 Census they were living in Iowa.
4. **Henry Harrison Williams**, b. 6 Jan 1825, d. 16 Jun 1878.<sup>555</sup> He married Melvina McReynolds on 18 Nov 1847 in Posey County, Indiana.
5. **Matilda Williams**, b. about 1828 (1860 Census), d. 1892 (unsourced). Married George W. Eaton on 9 May 1850 in Posey County.
6. **Malinda Jane Williams**, b. 25 Jan 1830, d. 29 Jan 1916.<sup>556</sup> She married Ansel J. Patterson in Posey County on 28 Dec 1853. They moved to Pike County, Indiana.
7. **Lucinda Williams**, b. about 1833 (1880 Census). She married William Alfred McReynolds in Posey County on 22 Dec 1854.
8. **John H. Williams**, b. about 1834 (1850 Census). He married Martha Whiting in Posey County on 1 Nov 1857. They moved to Pike County, Indiana and are found living two doors down from his sister Malinda in the 1860 Census.

As can be seen in the following analysis of early Census records, the above list appears to account for all of his children.

In the 1840 Census for Smith Township Enoch is found as the head of the following household:

- Males: one aged 5-9 (John), three 15-19 (Greenberry, James, Henry), one 20-29 (William), one 40-49 (Enoch).
- Females: one aged 5-9 (Lucinda), two 10-14 (Malinda, Matilda), one 40-49 (Lydia).

In the 1830 Census for Smith Township his household consists of:

- Males: one under age 5 (Henry), three 5-9 (William, James, Greenberry), one 30-39 (Enoch).
- Females: two under age 5 (Malinda, Matilda), one 30-39 (Lydia).

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<sup>552</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #35760829 (headstone photo), Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>553</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #23907532 (headstone photo), Haven Priest Cemetery, Reno County, Kansas.

<sup>554</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #37761319 (no headstone photo), Sharon Chapel Cemetery, Appanoose County, Iowa.

<sup>555</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #113133575 (headstone photo), Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>556</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #55623955 (headstone photo), Little Zion Cemetery, Pike County, Indiana.

In 1820 their Smith Township household consists of:

- Males: one under age 10 (William), one 16-25 (Enoch).
- Females: one aged 16-25 (Lydia).

**Table 6.11: Census Summary for the Household of Enoch Williams<sup>557</sup>**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>1820</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>1840</b>	<b>Child</b>
EW1	M	1810-1820	1820-1825	1810-1820	William H. Williams
EW2	M		1820-1825	1820-1825	James Redman Williams
EW3	M		1820-1825	1820-1825	Greenberry Williams
EW4	M		1825-1830	1825-1830	Henry Harrison Williams
EW5	F		1825-1830	1825-1830	Matilda Williams
EW6	F		1825-1830	1825-1830	Malinda Jane Williams
EW7	F			1830-1835	Lucinda Williams
EW8	M			1830-1835	John H. Williams
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1 minors</b>	<b>6 minors</b>	<b>8 minors</b>	<b>8 proven minors out of 8</b>

<sup>557</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

## ANNA WILLIAMS & GEORGE W. JOHNSON

George and Anna were married on 19 Oct 1816 in Gibson County, Indiana. They are mentioned in biographies of two of the grandsons of their son Levi: George Washington Johnson, his second eldest son, and Warrick D. Johnson, his youngest son. The former biography is found on page 834 of Gil Stormont's *History of Gibson County, Indiana* (1914), where it is stated that Anna died in New Harmony, Posey County, Indiana on 25 Dec 1824 after giving birth to Levi. Two years later, George remarried, to Mary Mason. His brother-in-law, Lewis Harmon, performed the ceremony as Justice of the Peace. The latter biography is found on page 750, where it confirms that George Johnson was the son of Arthur and Lucy (Harmon) Johnson.

George Johnson and his brother John entered a parcel of land from the government on 29 Nov 1817, which was the E ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 33, T3S, R12W. They relinquished the property on 25 Jun 1827, and a land entry for the property was subsequently made by John Garten. Their neighbor two years after they had made their land entry was John [Clark] Williams, who made his land entry on 17 Nov 1819, only to have his property relinquished to the government (also on 25 Jun 1827). The subsequent purchaser of his property was John Johnson, likely George's brother.

On page 300 of *The Genealogy Newspaper Columns of Robert E. Turman*, Tri-State Genealogical Society (1987) we learn that Anna did not live a long life:

*"...George W. Johnson, who was born 1788 in Virginia, and who was married in Posey County, Ind. To Anna Williams, a daughter of another prominent pioneer Simon Williams, Jr. and his wife, Polly Ann. Simon Williams, a revolutionary war soldier, was the literal founder of all the present Williams families of southern Indiana, including our well-known friend, Judge Hertis [sic: Herdis] Clements.<sup>558</sup>*

*"George W. Johnson was a son of Arthur Johnson who was born in 1757 in Virginia and who married Lucy Harmon. According to Stormont's History, Arthur and Lucy moved from a residence in North Carolina to Kentucky after their marriage, then in 1807 came to Indiana, where their son, George was married."*

*"The first child of George and Anna (Williams) Johnson was Eliza, born Mar. 2, 1823, who first married Austin Rutter, and after his death about 1841, she married Ambrose Coleman.*

*"The second child of George Johnson was born in New Harmony, Ind., on Christmas Day of 1825! But this day proved to be a sad one, for the mother died the same day her son, Levi Johnson, was born – according to a biography in the History. When the child, Levi, grew up, he was married on Oct. 21, 1848 to*

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<sup>558</sup> Judge Clements was a descendant of Enoch Williams. See Volume 2, Addendum 6 for additional information.

*Louisa Smith, daughter of Dr. Willis Jackman Smith, and his wife, Martha Crockett Warrick (Martha's parents were Capt. Jacob Warrick, the Tippecanoe hero, and Jane Montgomery, the Deer Killer.)"*

Additional details of George W. Johnson are found in the biographical sketch of his grandson John W. Johnson on page 172 of James T. Tartt's *History of Gibson County, Indiana* (1884):

*"[Arthur Johnson] had a large family, among whom was George W. Johnson, the grandfather of John W. He was a soldier in the Indian wars in the Northwest, and was present at the famous interview at Vincennes between the Indian chief Tecumseh and Gen. Harrison. He married Anna Williams, of Posey County, Indiana. Both he and his wife died on the old homestead they settled when they first came to the county. There were three children by that union. Levi, the father of John W., is the only survivor of the union of George W. and Anna Johnson."*

This source adds the important detail that Anna Williams was from Posey County.

George's grave is no longer extant, though it is listed at the Gibson County INGENWEB website among the burials at Johnson Cemetery in Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana. The site notes that the information came from a previous survey of the property that stated that George was a veteran of the War of 1812 and that he died on 15 Jun 1866 at the age of 73 years. Neither of George's wives is listed as being buried there.

There is a George Johnson listed in Ancestry.com's *Indiana, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1790-1890* (1999) as being in the Militia in Knox County, Indiana in 1812. And there is record that he had served in Captain Pierre Andre's Company of Mounted Riflemen of the Indiana Territory from June to October, 1815.<sup>559</sup>

On 25 Oct 1826 George remarried in Gibson County, to Mary Mason.

In 1850 George and Mary are in living Montgomery Township, with their children Lourinda b. 1833, David b. 1834, Thomas b. 1836 and George W. b. 1838.

In 1860 George is found living with his second wife, Mary, in Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana with sons Thomas and George.

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<sup>559</sup> *Muster, pay and receipt rolls of Indiana territory volunteers or militia of the period of the War of 1812, Volume 4* (1926) , U.S. Adjutant General's Office, pages 568-572.



## Proven Children

All of the children noted in the 1850 and 1860 Census were by George's second wife, Mary Mason, and thus are outside the scope of this book. From the above sources we've learned that the proven children of Anna and George were:

1. **Eliza Johnson**, b. 2 Mar 1825, d. 28 Mar 1860.<sup>560</sup> She married: first, Austin Rutter on 26 Jan 1840 in Gibson County, and second, Ambrose Coleman on 20 Feb 1845 in Gibson County.
2. **Levi Johnson**, b. 24 Dec 1825, d. 26 Nov 1904.<sup>561</sup> He married Louisa Smith in Gibson County on 22 Oct 1848.

Eliza married Austin Rutter before the 1840 Census. They are not found in their own household anywhere in the vicinity, nor were they living with George and Mary.

In the 1840 Census for Gibson County, George's household includes:

- Males: two under age 5 (George, Thomas), two 5-9 (David, ?), one 15-19 (Levi), one 40-49 (George).
- Females: two aged 5-9 (Lourinda, ?), one 10-14 (?), one 40-49 (Mary).

In the 1830 Gibson County Census his household includes:

- Males: two under age 5 (Levi, ?), one 30-39 (George).
- Females: two under age 5 (?, ?), two 5-9 (Eliza, ?), one 20-29 (Mary).

Since George and Mary were married in 1826, she was 28 years old and would have had only three years in which to have had the four children under age 5. Thus, unless she had twins (unlikely), probably two were by a previous marriage, and the two unidentified 5-9 year olds could have either been hers or the children of George and Anna.

In 1820 George is in Gibson County as head of the following household:

- Males: one under age 10 (?), one 16-25 (George).
- Females: one under age 10 (?), one 16-25 (Anna).

Since Anna and George had been married less than four years when this census was taken, it would seem neither of these two children survived to adulthood, as there are no corresponding entries in the 1830 Census record.

Anna Williams is unique, in that she is the only member of Simon's family to marry in Gibson County, though it is very plausible that she would have been married at Old Union Church, as Arthur Johnson was a charter member there. It was located just over the county line a mile or so to the north and a few miles to the west of Cynthiana.

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<sup>560</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #28457914 (headstone photo), Coleman Cemetery, Pike County, Indiana.

<sup>561</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #35200667 (headstone photo), Owensville Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

## **Unproven Children**

Since Turman's account mentions only two children being born prior to Anna's death, and since no grave markers have been discovered of any siblings that died in childhood, there is no point in further analyzing the other children found in George and Anna's Census records (the third child mentioned in Tartt's book likely did not survive childhood). The other children found in their Census records remain unidentified and it is fairly safe to assume that none survived to start families of their own.

## JEMIMA WILLIAMS & JOSEPH CATER

Jemima and Joseph were married in Posey County on 16 Oct 1817 by Elder James Martin, the father of Jemima's brother-in-law, James Martin, Junior and sister-in-law, Polly (Martin) Williams. Joseph and Jemima's graves are found in the Simon Williams Family Cemetery, where it states that Joseph died on 11 Dec 1859 at the age of 64 years, 1 month and 4 days, and Jemima died on 27 Jun 1864.

On page 62 of John C. Leffel's *History of Posey County, Indiana* (1913) is found the following account involving Joseph Cater and his neighbors:



*“There were not many negroes in Posey county before the Civil war, a few having been brought here were later taken back south by their owners or were kidnaped [sic] by slave dealers. Occasionally runaway slaves, after finding their way this far, were kidnaped and taken back to slavery. There was one instance of kidnaping which was surrounded by peculiar circumstances. A man by the name of **Goddard** was immigrating to this county with his wife in 1815, when the latter took sick and her husband deserted her. She had smallpox, and as this was such a deadly disease in those days it is not to be wondered at that he was alarmed for his own safety, and being of a dissipated and dissolute character it is quite natural that he should not care for her when ill. The woman was picked up by a negro, who had one small hut on the river, and was cared for here until the return of her health, when she returned to her husband and soon afterward gave birth to twin boys, one bright mulatto, the other of darker complexion. **Mr. Goddard** was a believer in psychological impressions and accounted for the complexion of the twins on the theory that it was a birthmark. In 1882, when the boys were about six years of age, they were kidnapped by **Aquilla Ford** and **Jack Lynn**, members of a gang of adventurous and desperate men who had a rendezvous at Diamond Island, later known as West Franklin. The news of this dastardly act roused the whole township and a number of men, named, **Patrick Calvert**, **William Rodgers** and **Joe Cater**, organized a rescuing party of twenty-seven men, armed with flintlock guns, horse pistols, clubs and knives, and went in pursuit of the kidnapers. The gang at West Franklin, hearing of the movement, made preparations to defend themselves. The rescuing party, upon arriving at the village, demanded that a search be made. At this the citizens were highly incensed, declaring that the boys were not there, and a heated discussion followed, which ended in a conflict. The citizens rallied to the defense of the gang. The rescuers, being greatly outnumbered, retreated to a near-by corn field, the worthless **Goddard** being the first to run away. This left **Calvert**, **Cater** and **Rodgers** to repel [sic] the attack. Guns and clubs were freely in play and two of the **Ford** gang were wounded, while only **Calvert**, of the other side, was hurt. By this time **Dan Lynn** appeared*

*as arbitrator, and the hostilities came to an end. Calvert was picked up and found to be very severely hurt. Indeed he had been beaten so severely that he had been left for dead. The gang was merciless in their treatment of Calvert after they had taken his gun away from him. They beat him up and asked him if he were not sorry he came, and on his reply that he was not, they endeavored by cruelty to make him say that he was sorry. His steadfast refusal resulted in his nearly losing his life. After this **Joe Cater** organized another searching party of forty picked men,<sup>562</sup> who made a thorough search of West Franklin without opposition, as the boys had been taken away before they could get there. They crossed over to the Kentucky side and searched the near-by neighborhood there without results. Two years later **Patrick Calvert** visited the Red river district in Arkansas on a prospecting tour in company with a number of Posey county farmers. On their return they camped near Fulton, Ark., and in swapping yarns with the citizens about the camp fire Calvert related the story of the stolen boys. This reminded one of the citizens that two boys answering the description had been brought to that neighborhood and sold to a certain party still living there. The next morning Calvert went to see the boys and tested their memory on the incidents of the kidnapping. The matter was taken to the courts and the boys were turned over to Calvert, who returned them to their overjoyed mother. In gratitude for his services in rescuing the children from slavery the boys were bound out to Calvert and gave him devoted service long after they had become of age.”*

As noted in the previous chapter, in 1810 Joseph Cater was living in Warren County, Kentucky, most likely in the household of his mother, Ellenor, though neither is found listed in Census records there.

In the 1820 Census for Armstrong Township, Joseph Cater’s household contains his wife and a son under age 10. He was living two doors down from his brother-in-law, Lewis Williams.



At the May 1823 Term of the Vanderburgh County Probate Court, Joseph Cater produced an appraisement bill for the estate of his deceased brother, William Cater, who had died before that date.<sup>563</sup>

On 13 Oct 1830, Joseph and Jemima sold 60 acres of land located in the NE ½ NE ¼ of Section 19, T4S, R11W to James Calvert for \$200, which was part of 160 acres that was originally entered by George Williams and later assigned to and patented by his brother-

<sup>562</sup> On page 38 of *Cynthiana, Indiana: Journey’s End of an American Pioneer Trail* by the Cynthiana Sesquicentennial Committee (1967), it states that Avery Allen (brother-in-law to Enoch Williams) was among this group of forty and that he was living when the story first appeared in Leffel’s *History of Posey County, Indiana*.

<sup>563</sup> *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Probate Court Records, Volume A*, page 61.

in-law, Lewis Williams.<sup>564</sup> He had acquired those 60 acres from Lewis Williams for \$75 on 14 Jul 1827.<sup>565</sup>

On 3 Sep 1835 John and Ruth McCrary sold to Joseph Cater for \$375 the N ½ NW ¼ of Section 19, T4S, R11W in Vanderburgh County, which abutted the property that he had sold to James Calvert in 1830.<sup>566</sup>

In the last will and testament of Herndon Meadows, dated 21 Aug 1840, Joseph Cater acted as the administrator of the estate, and Enoch Williams was a subscribing witness.<sup>567</sup>

On 17 Feb 1848, Joseph Cater was appointed as the guardian of Silas and Bailey Williams, the two youngest sons of Bennet Williams.<sup>568</sup>

In the 1850 Census for Armstrong Township, Jemima and Joseph are living with children Greenberry, Nancy C., Elizabeth, Ordry J., Bennett and Samuel.

At the Feb 1860 Term of the Vanderburgh County Court of Common Pleas (Probate), Leroy Calvert was granted letters of administration in vacation for the estate of Joseph Cater.<sup>569</sup> The final settlement of Joseph's estate took place on 10 May 1861; it states in part:<sup>570</sup>

*“Leroy Calvert, Admr*

*“Estate of Joseph Cater*

*“Now here comes the said Administrator and files his final Settlement Account verified by affidavit showing that there is in his hands after paying the debts of said estate the sum of five hundred and eighty nine 61/100 Dollars. And the Court having inspected said account and vouchers approves the same in every particular. And it is now here proved to the satisfaction of the court that Mrs. Jemima Cater is the widow of the said decedent [Joseph Cater] and is entitled to the sum of ninety-six and 08/100 dollars. And that Daniel Cater, Thomas R. Cater, Greenberry Cater, Bennett Cater, Paulina McConnell, Melissa Cox, Nancy C. Cater, and Ordry J. Cater, are the children and heirs of said decedent are each entitled to one ninth part of the residue of said balance and the sum of Twenty one 46/100 Dollars each, and that Joseph Henry Vickers and Bennett Lewis Vickers are the heirs of one Elizabeth C. Vickers who was one of the heirs of said decedent. And said Joseph Henry and Bennett Lewis are entitled jointly to the sum of \$21.46...”*

Jemima is found in the 1860 Census for Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana living with children Thomas, Greenberry, Nancy, Jane, Bennett, and Samuel.

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<sup>564</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book B, page 250.

<sup>565</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book B, page 77.

<sup>566</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book C, pages 505 and 506.

<sup>567</sup> Posey County, Indiana Wills, Book B, page 32.

<sup>568</sup> Posey County, Indiana Probate Orders, Book F, page 502.

<sup>569</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Probate Court Records, Volume 2, page 450, item 136.

<sup>570</sup> Vanderburgh County, Indiana Probate Court Records, Volume 3, pages 620 and 621, item 109.



The settlement of Joseph's estate, combined with the 1860 Census, would seem to account for all of Joseph's children who were living at the time of his death. But there are records of other children who had preceded him in death.

In *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carroll O. Cox (1979), page 56 is a listing in Cater Cemetery (Simon Williams Family Cemetery) for William Lewis Cater, b. 15 Apr 1832, d. 3 Aug 1832. There are only two Cater males that could have been his father: William and Joseph. Since we know that William Cater had died before May 1823, it would seem that William Lewis Cater was a child of Joseph and Jemima (Williams) Cater. In fact, any Cater born in the Smith Township, Posey County vicinity for the decade after William's death would have to have been a child of Joseph and Jemima, as no male child of William's could have fathered a child in that time period.

Also at the Simon William Family Cemetery are found the following children of Joseph and Jemima (Williams) Cater (as proven by the earlier probate record):

- A headstone fragment that states only "3<sup>rd</sup> KY." The earlier survey by Cox noted the stone of T. R. Cater of "Co. M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ky. Calv." He was born about 1822.
- The broken headstone for Greenberry Cater, whose dates of birth and death were recorded in the Cox survey. He was born in 1825.
- A footstone inscribed "N C C," thought to be for Nancy C. Cater, whose headstone Turman had surveyed in 1946. She was born in 1828.
- The broken grave marker for Elizabeth Caroline Vickers, "consort of John J. Vickers and daughter of Joseph and Jemima Cater." She was born in 1830.

The broken headstone of Samuel A. Cater is also found at Simon Williams Cemetery, whose dates of birth and death were recorded by Cox. He was born in 1840 and he died almost exactly two months before the final settlement of Joseph Cater's estate. The 1850 Census shows that he was Joseph and Jemima's youngest child. That he was omitted from the estate suggests that he left no heirs.

Also at the family cemetery is the grave of Mary C. Cater, who died at age 12 weeks on 20 Sep 1817. Joseph and Jemima were not married until the following month, so she would have been the child of his brother, William Cater.

Additional information about their daughter Melissa is found on page 36 of the unknown document cited below, which was found in *The Cox Collection* at Willard Library in Evansville, Indiana. This information is corroborated in a two page article by Harold L. Cox entitled The Cater Family of Vanderburgh and Posey Counties, which appeared in the Sep 1972 or 1992 (the date was cut off from the available copy) edition of *Tri-State Packet*. The author was a second great grandson of Melissa (Cater) Cox:

**"12-Isaac Cox (3) Joseph (2) John (1)**

*"Was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 1828 in Posey County, Indiana. He was the youngest child of Joseph and Elizabeth Hunsaker Cox. On February 24, 1848*

he married **MELISSA CATER** daughter of **Joseph** and **Jemima Williams Cater**.”

“**Isaac** and **Melissa** were married in the home of her parents in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. **Melissa**’s brother, **Greenberry**, rode to Evansville to deliver parental permission slips and to obtain the marriage license. The couple was married by the Rev. **Lewis H. Williams**,<sup>571</sup> the bride’s Uncle (who was married to **Elender Cater Williams**, perhaps **Joseph Cater**’s sister).”

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<sup>571</sup> It is corroborated in *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Marriages, Book 2*, page 57, that he indeed performed this marriage.

## Proven Children

Thus, from the above sources there is proof that the following individuals were children of Jemima and Joseph:

1. **Daniel Cater**, b. 17 Nov 1819, d. 3 Aug 1876.<sup>572,573</sup> He married Nancy Lawson on 24 Nov 1840 in Posey County, Indiana.
2. **Thomas R. Cater**, b. 1822 (1850 Census). He probably never married, as in the 1863 Civil War Draft he was listed as being unmarried. He was mustered out of the army on 15 Jul 1865 in North Carolina, but his whereabouts after that time are unknown. His Civil War headstone was shipped on 28 Sep 1886<sup>574</sup> and he was buried in Simon Williams Family Cemetery.<sup>575</sup>
3. **Paulina Cater**, b. 1823 (1850 Census), d. 20 Nov 1910.<sup>576</sup> She married James C. McConnell on 26 Apr 1849 in Vanderburgh County, Indiana.
4. **Greenberry Cater**, b. 29 Jun 1825, d. 14 Jan 1863.<sup>577,578</sup> He never married.
5. **Melissa Cater**, b. 9 Jan 1827, d. 21 Jun 1876.<sup>579</sup> She married Isaac Cox 24 Feb 1848 in Vanderburgh County, Indiana.
6. **Nancy C. Cater**, b. 9 Sep 1828, d. 21 Nov 1863.<sup>580</sup> She never married.
7. **Elizabeth Caroline Cater** is thought to have been b. 14 Aug 1830, d. 9 Sep 1888.<sup>581,582</sup> She married John Vickers on 26 May 1853 in Indiana.
8. **William Lewis Cater**, b. 15 Apr 1832, 3 Aug 1832.<sup>583</sup>
9. **Ordry Jane Cater**, b. about 1835 (1850 Census). She married Benjamin Gwaltney on 13 Feb 1862 in Indiana.
10. **Bennett Cater**, b. about 1837 (1850 Census). He married Ariel Endicott on 10 Apr 1862 in Posey County, Indiana.
11. **Samuel Asbury Cater** is thought to have been b. 22 Feb 1840, d. 11 May 1861.<sup>584,585</sup> He never married.

In the 1820 Census for Armstrong Township, Joseph's family includes:

- Males: one under age 10 (Daniel), one 16-25 (Joseph).

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<sup>572</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #35625266 (no headstone photo), Liberty Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>573</sup> *Cemetery Records of Southern Indiana* by Robert E. Turman (undated [1946]), page 18.

<sup>574</sup> Ancestry.com's *Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, 1879-1903* (2007).

<sup>575</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #110423021 (partial headstone photo), Simon Williams Family Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>576</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #35626671 (headstone photo), Liberty Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>577</sup> *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carroll O. Cox (1979), page 56.

<sup>578</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #110422843 (headstone photo), Simon Williams Family Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>579</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #42288049 (headstone photo), Fillingim Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>580</sup> *Cemetery Records of Southern Indiana* by Robert E. Turman (undated [1946]), page 14.

<sup>581</sup> *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carroll O. Cox (1979), page 56.

<sup>582</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #110423239 (partial headstone photo), Simon Williams Family Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>583</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #107938585 (headstone photo), Simon Williams Family Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>584</sup> *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carroll O. Cox (1979), page 56.

<sup>585</sup> *Find A Grave*, memorial #107939382 (headstone photo with death date only), Simon Williams Family Cemetery, Posey County, Indiana.

- Females: one aged 16-25 (Jemima).

In 1830, his household in Armstrong Township includes:

- Males: one under age 5 (Greenberry), one 5-9 (Thomas R.), one 10-14 (Daniel), one 30-39 (Joseph), one 70-79 (?).
- Females: two under age 5 (Melissa, Nancy), one 5-9 (Paulina), one 10-14 (?), one 20-29 (Jemima).

In 1840 Joseph is found in Armstrong Township as the head of the following family:

- Males: two under age 5 (Samuel, Bennett), one 5-9 (William Lewis), one 10-14 (Greenberry), one 15-19 (Thomas R.), one 20-29 (Daniel), one 40-49 (Joseph).
- Females: one under age 5 (Ordry), two 5-9 (Elizabeth, Nancy), one 10-14 (Melissa), one 15-19 (Paulina), one 30-39 (Jemima).

**Table 6.12 - Census Summary for the Household of Joseph Cater<sup>586</sup>**

ID	Sex	1820	1830	1840	Child
JC1	M	1810-1820	1815-1820	1810-1820	Daniel, b. 1819
JC2	F		1815-1820		? <sup>587</sup>
JC3	M		1820-1825	1820-1825	Thomas R., b. 1822
JC4	F		1820-1825	1820-1825	Paulina, b. 1823
JC5	M		1825-1830	1825-1830	Greenberry, b. 1825
JC6	F		1825-1830	1825-1830	Melissa, b. 1827
JC7	F		1825-1830	1830-1835	Nancy, b. 1828
JC8	F			1830-1835	Elizabeth Caroline, b. 1830
JC9	M			1830-1835	William Lewis, b. 1832
JC10	F			1835-1840	Ordry Jane, b. 1835
JC11	M			1835-1840	Bennett, b. 1837
JC12	M			1835-1840	Samuel Asbury, b. 1840
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1 minors</b>	<b>7 minors</b>	<b>11 minors</b>	<b>11 proven minors out of 12</b>

## Unproven Children

### JC2

Joseph and Jemima's oldest child would have been born no sooner than Jul 1818, so daughter JC2 would have been no more than 12 years old when the 1840 Census was enumerated. A lack of a match for her in the 1840 Census suggests that she had died young.

<sup>586</sup> Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

<sup>587</sup> This daughter would have been born no sooner than about Jul 1818.





## CHAPTER 7:

### CONCLUSIONS

The following two sections of this chapter briefly summarize the results of the research that has gone into this book. The main lesson here is that researching a direct ancestor who was born in the early 1800s, without learning about his or her siblings, can cause important evidence to be overlooked, leading to incorrect conclusions.

### BUSTED MYTHS

Unsourced information that gets repeated often enough can begin to seem factual, leading researchers astray and obscuring the truth for those who seek it. A tangible result of the research for this book is that several myths about several families of interest have been busted: some are major, though the majority of such findings are minor. Dispelling such myths helps to provide greater clarity when analyzing the facts connected with the various members of these families. While this information has been repeated throughout this book, it is summarized again here, as these are some of the most important results derived from researching this book.

The following myths have helped to perpetuate some common errors in various genealogies of several of the people discussed in this book. It is such red herrings that have caused the most difficulty in learning the truth about these individuals:

**Myth #1.** *That Simon Williams' father was also named Simon Williams.*

It has been clearly shown that the Simon Williams thought by many to have been Simon's father did have a son named Simon, but he left no heirs. Our Simon has no known connection to that family (see *Volume 2, Addendum 1* for more information). While it is possible that Simon's father was named Simon, there is no known factual basis for making such an assumption.

**Myth #2.** *This is a two part myth: That John Clark Williams, husband of Ritter Johnson, was a son of Simon Williams, and that John Clark Williams and Ritter Johnson were married in Indiana Territory.*

a) John arrived in Warren County, Kentucky more than three years before Simon had, and there is a nearly four year gap between John's marriage to Ritter and that of Simon's eldest daughter, Phebe. Facts clearly show that the John Williams who was Simon's son had a wife named Elizabeth, not Ritter or Henrietta. Available evidence more directly supports the conclusion that the John Williams who married Elizabeth Rook was Simon's son: only factoids exist to support the myth that John Clark Williams was his son (additional information about John Clark Williams' family can be found in *Volume 2, Addendum 4*).

b) Record of John and Ritter's marriage is found in the records of Warren County, Kentucky. Specifically, the bond for their marriage, which was signed by Arthur Johnson on 1 Oct 1801, can be found in Western Kentucky University's Manuscripts & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records (MSS 230)*, Box 2, folder 2, item 18. That took place fully three years before the

earliest evidence that places Simon Williams in Warren County, and several years before the first evidence of John Clark Williams is found in Indiana.

**Myth #3.** *That **Elder James Martin** was either **Colonel James Martin** of Edgefield County, South Carolina or he was the Colonel's son.*

This has clearly been shown to have been the wishful thinking of a handful of Elder James Martin's descendants, as discussed in considerable detail in Chapter 5.

**Myth #4.** *That either **Col. Joseph Prewitt** or his grandson, **Michael Prewitt, Jr.**, was the father of **Moses Pruitt**.*

A separate analysis of these statements, contained in *Volume 2* of this book, clearly shows the logical flaws in making such assertions. The most credible accounts, supported by the best evidence, show that Moses' father was also named Moses. The facts relating to Joseph and Michael are covered in detail in *Volume 2, Addendum 2*.

**Myth #5.** *That **Arthur Johnson**, or any member of his family, had arrived in Indiana Territory earlier than 1807.*

Record of Arthur Johnson is found in Warren County as late as the summer of 1807. There is no public record of him being in Indiana Territory until after that time, and there was no reason for him to have ventured to Indiana Territory prior to the spring of 1807, when land there was first offered for sale.

**Myth #6.** *This is a two-part myth: That **Mary Elizabeth Williams**, b. 5 Mar 1780 was the wife of **William Harmon**, and that they were married in 1803.*

a) Her father's consent to the marriage does not state the year it was given, but the undated marriage return by Elder James Martin for their marriage also includes the marriage for another couple known to have been married in mid-1807.

Therefore, their marriage most likely also took place in 1807, after which time Elder James Martin is known to have been in Indiana Territory.

b) Polly Williams required her father's consent when she married in the spring of 1807, thus at that time she was almost certainly under 21 years of age; most likely she was around 18 years old. That would put her year of birth between roughly 1786 and 1789. Even if she had married in 1803, if she had been born in 1780 she wouldn't have required her father's consent. Analysis of marriage and Census records shows that Mary Elizabeth Williams was too old to have been William Harmon's wife. It is far more likely that William Harmon had married the younger Mary Williams, who was born 8 Nov 1791.

**Myth #7.** *That **Winnie Williams** married **Sampson Johnson** in 1803.*

There is no known marriage record for Winnie Williams and Sampson Johnson. Her age as reported by Mrs. Ramsey would suggest she was married at the earliest after about 1809, though probably more likely around 1811. So she would most likely have been married in Kentucky. The earliest evidence of both of their parents having been in the same general location at the same time was in late 1804, more than a year after they were said to have married.

**Myth #8.** *That **Phebe (Williams) Pruitt** died on 18 Jun 1858.*

This is obviously incorrect, as she is found in the 1860 Census for Armstrong

Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana living in the household of her son, Simon Pruitt.<sup>588</sup> No evidence of her true date of death was found as part of this research, though Richard A. Prewitt claims she was buried at Gottmann Family Cemetery in Vanderburgh County.

**Myth #9.** *According to Mrs. Ramsey, **Bennet Williams** had a daughter named **Obedience** who was a twin to his daughter **Fanny**.*

Analysis of Bennet's household in the records of the 1830 and 1840 Census do not corroborate the existence of this additional child, there is no marriage record to corroborate her alleged marriage, no Census or cemetery records exist for her and she was not mentioned in her father's will (which listed all of his other children), despite Mrs. Ramsey's assertion that she lived until Oct 1859.

**Myth #10.** *According to Mrs. Ramsey, **Bennet Williams**' daughter **Matilda** married **James Emberson** [sic: **Emmerson**].*

A deed to John Williams (husband of Elizabeth Rook) shows that the Matilda Williams who married James Emmerson was *his* daughter, not Bennet's: their marriage took place on 20 Nov 1845 in Posey County and they subsequently moved to Williamson County, Illinois. Bennet's daughter Letitia Matilda married John T. Neely Mangrum in Gibson County on 2 Jan 1849.

**Myth #11.** *According to Mrs. **Ella Pollard**, **Lee Allen, Senior** died "on the old family farm in Bowling Green," Kentucky.*

First of all, there is no record of Lee ever owning property in or near Bowling Green – this was simply Ella's shorthand for "in or near Warren County, Kentucky." When Lee Allen lived next door to Simon Williams in present-day Allen County, Kentucky, they were located about 15 miles southeast of Bowling Green and there are no known records that put his place of residence any closer to Bowling Green than that. Second, Lee's Posey County, Indiana probate file is found in the records of the Indiana State Archives, and there is record of his son, Avery, having to have a law passed by the Indiana Legislature in order to sell a property that his father had acquired from David Benson. Thus, the "old family farm" at the time of Lee's death was in Posey County next to Simon Williams' farm, not in Kentucky.

**Myth #12.** *An article published by Turman states that **Lee Allen** had a daughter, **Matilda**, who married **George H. Meadows**.*

In Chapter 6, a source was cited about an undated consent to the marriage of "George F. Meadows" and "Matilda F. Allen" was given by "her father Avery Allen." Obviously, Turman was incorrect about Matilda's parentage.

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<sup>588</sup> On page 93: dwelling 701, family 704.

## SUMMARY

A family history published by Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey has been found to be the “ground zero” history of Simon Williams’ family. While the source of her information is unknown, some of it is repeated in works that cite information that was credited to John Felix Pruitt, who died a decade or more before her book was written. Therefore, it seems very likely that he was her primary source. They both deserve our thanks for providing us with a more accurate and more complete picture of Simon Williams’ family.

Two of the children of Simon Williams (as listed by Mrs. Ramsey) remain a mystery: Mary Elizabeth and Francis. No other record of their existence was found. It is possible that the names of Enoch and Francis had been confused, but Enoch’s date of birth suggests it is more likely that his name was missing from her list as an error of omission. The existence of the two Marys on Mrs. Ramsey’s list suggests the possibility that the elder Mary may have died before the younger. Others have offered alternate explanations, but they fail to stand up to close scrutiny.

Public records, in the form of one or more of the following, provide *direct* proof of Simon’s relationship to each of his children, except for Phebe, Eleanor, Winnie and Anna:

- Evidence of Simon Williams’ consent to his child’s marriage,
- A headstone that confirms Mrs. Ramsey’s information (with most of these being found in Simon Williams Family Cemetery),
- A deed involving Simon, and/or
- Simon’s Warren County, Kentucky tax information.

When you look at those descendants who have written or contributed to family histories of their Williams lines (as detailed in *Volume 2, Addendum 6*), the list includes Phebe, Bennet, Lewis, Enoch and Jemima (though in the interest of full disclosure, there are some histories that include John Clark Williams as a son of Simon’s, despite that line having been disproven). Thus family histories provide an additional source of corroboration for some of Simon’s children.

The results of autosomal DNA testing at Ancestry.com (reviewed in Nov 2014) reveal descendants of several of Simon’s children that appear to share common DNA with the author. The paper trail of each suggests the match is along Simon’s line via one or more of the following of his children: Phebe, Bennet, Eleanor, George, Sally, Lewis, Polly, Winnie, William, Enoch and Jemima. Thus DNA provides us with additional corroboration for most of Simon’s children, though admittedly of lower quality as compared with primary sources of information.

Missing from the list of apparent DNA matches are matches along the lines of John and Anna. Neither of them is known to have had a large number of descendants. Anna is known to have died young, with only one son that survived to have a family of his own. John had a larger family, but it was only possible to trace a single family line to living descendants (a Highman family of central California), though other lines likely exist.

Anna remains the only child not also corroborated by a source other than Mrs. Ramsey (though Mr. Turman had asserted in one of his columns that she was Simon's daughter).

Public Records, the family cemetery, various family histories and autosomal DNA results, when viewed together, give us a very high degree of confidence that Mrs. Ramsey's information has provided an excellent foundation for this family history, as summarized in the table below:

**Table 7.01 – Sources that Corroborate Information from Mrs. Ramsey**

Name	Marriage Consent	Family Cemetery	Other	DNA/History*
Mary Elizabeth Williams			No records found. Probably died young.	
Phebe (Williams) Pruitt			John F. Pruitt (b. 1835) was quoted as saying she was Simon's daughter.	DNA History
Bennet Williams			Headstone confirms birthdate. Patent with George.	DNA History
Eleanor (Williams) Harmon				DNA
George Harrison Williams		✓	Patent with Bennet. Living on land in Warren County, Kentucky next to Simon Williams and paying taxes on the same day.	DNA
Sally (Williams) Martin	✓		Headstone confirms birth date.	DNA
Lewis Williams		✓		DNA History
Polly (Williams) Harmon	✓			DNA
Winnie (Williams) Johnson				DNA
Enoch Williams		✓	Deed from Simon. Not mentioned by Ramsey.	History
William Williams	✓			DNA
John Williams			Deed from Simon.	
Francis (Robert?) Williams	No records found. He seems to have been confused with Enoch. There are no known heirs.			
Anna (Williams) Johnson				
Jemima (Williams) Cater		✓		DNA History

*\* denotes the following:*

*DNA = Autosomal DNA match with the author's line,  
History = A family history has been written for this line.*



NOTE: Regarding autosomal DNA, it is important to note that Simon Williams' family is somewhat unique as compared with the families that his children had married into. Earlier it was shown how various families had migrated en masse from various regions, usually along with families that had already intermarried; in particular, this is very clearly the case for the Johnsons and Harmons. But we've also seen clear evidence of several families migrating together from Pendleton District, South Carolina; Newberry County, South Carolina; Spartanburg County, South Carolina and Harrison County, Kentucky. Yet we don't find other intermarried families that migrated together with Simon Williams from Rowan County, North Carolina. So there are no apparent intermarriages prior to his arrival in Indiana, as there are with so many other families that settled there. This is an important distinction, as it increases the value of the author's multiple autosomal DNA results pointing to Simon and/or Anna Williams as being the most recent common ancestor, especially with the author's fairly complete and well documented family tree that is 100% complete at five generations, more than 90% complete at six generations and around 80% complete at seven generations (thus highly accurate, even for 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> cousin matches). But autosomal DNA is still only corroborating evidence – it is just extra assurance that the paper trail is correct; it is not a substitute for direct evidence.

## Simon's Descendants

One result of this research is the knowledge that Simon Williams had **94 proven** grandchildren, who were born between about 1805 and 1840 – a pretty remarkable tally, especially considering that many of them managed to survive to adulthood. It is very likely that the actual number of grandchildren exceeds one hundred, as there are at least 17 additional children that appear in Census records who are not accounted for. The majority likely died in childhood, but a few certainly could have survived to start families of their own. But there appear to be insufficient public records to identify and prove those others. If any of them can be proven to have been a child of one of Simon's sons or daughters, it will almost certainly be by family records that have been passed down through the generations, as every effort has been made to leave no stone unturned in the review of all available public records in the researching and writing of this book.

Of Simon's 94 proven grandchildren, exactly half bore the Williams surname. Of the surnames of the others, at least fifteen were Harmons, eleven were Caters, nine were Pruitts, eight were Martins, and four were Johnsons. Of these, the unproven descendants are primarily a few Harmons and perhaps several Johnsons, though there may be one or two others.

Of the 47 proven Williams grandchildren, 24 were males that could carry on the family name. Of the 24 grandsons, together they fathered more than 250 children, of which at least 136 were males that could further perpetuate the Williams surname.

Precisely how many members of Simon's clan are alive today is virtually impossible to say with any degree of precision. Clearly there are thousands of us, likely bearing many dozens of different surnames. How many descendants still bear the Williams surname is an even murkier question, as the name likely 'daughtered-out' on many branches, and the laws of chance could equally favor generations with either a shortage or an abundance of male heirs to further spread the family name. The important thing is, regardless of what our surnames may be, we all share a common Williams bond.

## Simon as a Land Owner

We have reasonable certainty that Simon had lived for perhaps a decade or so in Rowan County, North Carolina, but he doesn't show up there in property records as either an owner or even a witness to any land or estate transactions. That suggests that he probably wasn't living near family at the time, or if he was, that they weren't owners of any significant amounts of real or personal property.

We know that some of Simon's children were born in Tennessee, but we don't know where in that state that they had lived. We know that he lived there a little more than a decade, mostly at the close of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The first most logical choice for where they had lived would be at the northern end of the Great Tennessee Valley, with the second most logical choice being in the vicinity of Nashville (in the area due south of Simon's property in Allen County, Kentucky). Public records from those areas during the time that Simon lived in Tennessee are scarce, mainly due to the effects of the Civil War, but also due to courthouse fires created by other causes, or records that were simply lost to neglect or the ravages of time. A review of land records for the Great Tennessee Valley shows that his name does not show up as a land owner or as having been involved in any property or estate transactions. Only once does the name Simon Williams show up on a tax list in Tennessee: in Sullivan County in 1797.<sup>589</sup>

It is not until Simon gets ready to leave Allen County, Kentucky for his new home near Cynthiana, Indiana that we find record that he had owned property. Tax records show that he had lived on these lands for quite some time before he had acquired an interest in them, so it is interesting to speculate upon why that is. Labor at that time was in short supply: with so much cheap land available, few people had an interest in working for others when they could easily profit by their own labors. Money to pay laborers was also in short supply, so land was a common form of payment. Those who were willing to work for others were largely individuals without the financial means to acquire their own property. That suggests that Simon may have acquired a portion of the lands of his two landlords in exchange for his help, and that of his sons, in improving those properties.

Simon's land ownership in Allen County has provided the key for better understanding the relationships that he had formed over 200 years ago with his neighbors, many of whom also migrated to the Lower Wabash River Valley, and several of whom became his close neighbors in the vicinity of Cynthiana and Owensville. That knowledge has helped to create a near seamless connection among these families as they migrated west together.

Once Simon arrived in Indiana, the family's fortunes changed dramatically. Likely financed in large part by the sale of his properties in Kentucky, within a few years of settling in Indiana, Simon and his sons had acquired an interest in at least 800 acres of land, and the land acquisitions of his several sons-in-law likely added considerably to that total. Within the span of three decades Simon's family went from only owning what personal possessions they could carry with them, to owning considerable real estate in

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<sup>589</sup> Ancestry.com's *Tennessee, Early Tax List Records, 1783-1895* (2013).

one of the Midwest's best farming regions. He truly had lived The American Dream, transforming the sweat of his brow into a considerable legacy for his many descendants.

## **A Familiar Theme**

Generally, families moving to Indiana around the time of statehood did so in stages. Often the able bodied men went first to stake claims, clear the land, create shelter, dig wells, etc. The elderly, women and children stayed behind to raise food, make clothes and other necessary articles, and to earn money to assist in the migration process. A few households at a time might move together once their homesteads were ready for them, generally along with other neighbors and/or members of their church. So depending upon the size of the extended family, the whole process could easily take years to complete and often involved multiple moves.

That would seem to be how things transpired for the Williams family, and it was likely a strategy honed over Simon's lifetime. In the era just prior to the Revolutionary War, many families, like Simon's, moved more than once in their lifetime. The inducement was nearly always the same - free or cheap land along the eastern seaboard offered to those willing to settle at the edge of the frontier, before the threat of conflict with natives had been fully extinguished. The strategy created a pool of men from which local militia were formed to provide protection in the wilderness, thus creating the seasoned fighting men that would be needed in order to win independence from England.

After the Revolutionary War, a similar theme started the Great Western Migration through the Cumberland Gap. But this time the inducements were initially offered to veterans of the War, primarily from Virginia and the Carolinas: a strategy that spread thousands of well seasoned soldiers throughout the western frontier. This ultimately prevented European countries from expanding their colonial empires in North America, and over time allowed our country to expand from seashore to seashore. Similar inducements were offered to men for their service in the War of 1812. This, and our victory in the War of 1812, once and for all stifled England's quest to retake her former colony.

There is speculation that Simon had come to Indiana from Virginia, and Census records of some of his children support this conclusion. There is a 1782 Frederick County, Virginia tax list with a household that matches what we know of Simon's family at that time, but it is not clear that is where in Virginia that he had lived. Likewise, there is a Rowan County, North Carolina Census record for 1790 that would seem to be a match for his family, though we don't know with certainty where in North Carolina he had lived. It is not until he shows up in the records of Warren County, Kentucky around 1804 that we have strong assurance that there are public records that describe the progenitor of our Williams clan. It is from that point forward that the foundation for this book has been built.

## **A Solid Foundation**

This research started with no knowledge that there existed any proof of the relationship between Simon Williams and any of his children. And what family histories were discovered all appear to have been based to some degree upon the information provided by Mrs. Ramsey, despite its flaws. Most such derivative efforts have, at least to a small degree, failed to get the facts straight for all of Simon's children, though overall each has all helped to improve our knowledge of Simon's family. Hopefully this book corrects the majority of errors found in those works and provides a very solid, factual foundation for not only Simon's family, but also for those families that his children had married into. These pioneer families deserve our admiration and this effort is my tribute to the struggles and hardships that they bore for us all.

While it would be desirable to extend the Williams family's history farther back in time, it is far more desirable to build a solid foundation for each proven generation, knowing that at some point the paper trail will be exhausted and proof will give way to hunches, speculation, myths and pure fantasy. Lacking any family lore or tradition with which to focus our search, and knowing that availability of extant public records is very poor for areas of Virginia that very well may have been where Simon had lived, this may be as far back as we can go with certainty. Such family tradition may have existed at one time, but is now obscured by the turbidity created by others incorrectly interpreting that tradition as pointing to an ancestor that is clearly not our own. If anyone knows of such a source that can be shown to have originated before the muddled attempts of the twentieth century, it would be wise to spread such knowledge around, in the hope that we may some day identify Simon's ancestors, and/or those of his wife.

The result of this research is that there is now a clear picture of Simon's entire family, including his children and the great majority of his grandchildren. For more recent generations, the availability of records is such that most of our distant cousins, if they should attempt to discern their ancestry, will be able to trace their lineage back to a grandchild of Simon Williams, and from that point they will hopefully find this book and easily learn of the pioneer progenitor of our Williams clan. When that happens, it is hoped that they will share what they have learned with others, and thus perpetuate a tradition of remembering our shared ancestors.

“Out of monuments, names, words, proverbs,  
and evidence, fragments of stories, passages of  
books, and the like, we do save and recover  
somewhat from the deluge of time.”

• LORD BACON



## INDEX

The following is basically an index on steroids. In addition to being an every name index to enable users to quickly find people of specific interest, it also acts as a bibliography since it indexes the authors and source documents cited throughout this book (not only crediting the source, but directing you to precisely where those citations are scattered throughout this book). You will also find headings such as Documents, Estate Deeds, Maps, Photographs, Probates, Proven Children of, and Wills, to name a few, listing all the specific entries of these types of source materials. These replace the lists of exhibits normally found in the front matter. Think of it as a central place to find anything of potential interest to you in this book.

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“Who in the world am I?  
Ah, that’s the great puzzle.”  
- LEWIS CARROLL

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